

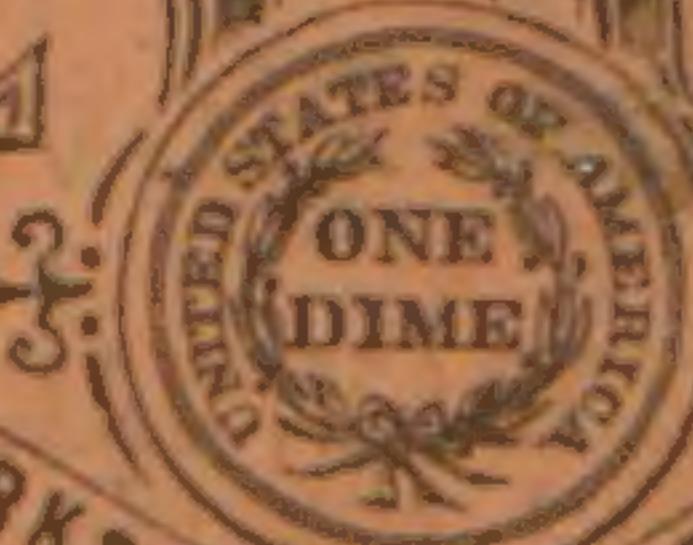
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By Ed. Hallowe



THE SCOUT'S PRIZE;

OR,

THE OLD DUTCH BLUNDERBUSS.

A TALE OF 1776.

BY HERRICK JOHNSTONE.

NEW YORK:
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(No. 76.)

THE SCOUT'S PRIZE.

CHAPTER I.

A KNICKERBOCKER HOMESTEAD.

IN the year 1776—and very probably for many years afterward—there stood a quaint old three-gabled house on the east side of Broadway, New York, fronting the Bowling Green. It was before the days of our old palatial storehouses, of our rumbling throngs of omnibuses, and busy sidewalks. Residences were mixed up with the stores, even on lower Broadway, and life itself was a sluggish stream, in contrast with the rushing river of our present existence—albeit, the tempests of human warfare were then, as now, upon the surface of the tide.

The old house evidently was a tavern. For, though there was nothing to that effect upon the dingy sign-post, which stood, like a sentinel, in front of the wooden stoop, on the top of the post there was a great gilded fish, and immediately under it, in letters still legible, the words: “The Golden Shark;” so we may infer that this fabulous specimen of natural history was an eccentric mode of expressing “Entertainment for man and beast.” And, acting upon this inference, strengthened by the stable-yard adjoining the premises, you would, upon entering the house-door, soon come to a definite conviction by the appearance of another sign, placed above the beer-counter within, whereon it was set forth that “Gotlieb Von Snooze” was the “Proprietor of the Golden Shark.”

In the early part of the month of August, 1776, a sturdy young fellow, of prepossessing appearance, in the partial uniform of a Continental soldier, might have been observed, endeavoring to conceal himself behind the shrubbery of the Bowling Green, while he watched with wistful eyes the open door of the Golden Shark. Presently, a young girl—and, let me tell you, she was as sweet and handsome as the smiling

morning itself—flitted past the opening of the door within. And then the young man immediately left his covert, and entered the tavern with a fearless step. At the sound of it, she turned, and went toward him in glad surprise. As for the young man, he took her in his arms and kissed her, in a very lover-like and pleasant manner.

"Here I am again, you see, Katrina," said he, "healed of my wound, and—pleasanter still—with the ring I promised. Give me your finger."

The girl extended a finger of her little brown hand, and the young man slipped upon it a plain gold ring which he drew from his waistcoat pocket, fondly kissing it before he slid it upon her hand.

"It is very beautiful, Joe," said Katrina, with downcast eyes; "but, I'm half-sorry you bought it."

"And wherefore, my darling?"

"Because we must save our money, now," said she. "I but asked you for a present in a moment of thoughtlessness; and you must need the money which procured it."

"You are quite a little housewife, already," he replied, laughing. "But I love you all the more for your goodness. And how is my pearl of Manhattan?"

"Well enough, Joe; only a little anxious on your account. But tell me, are you really well, at last?"

"Perfectly, darling! And, what do you guess? I am discharged from the service. Time up, you know."

"Bless me! I am glad of it! You will now remain in New York, will you not? What will you do?"

"Join the army again, *of course!*"

Her face fell at these words.

"No, Joe," she exclaimed. "You have already been your year in the army."

"But the red-coats are on Long Island, and my old comrades confront them with decimated ranks," said the young man, resolutely. "I intend to fight for General Washington, whenever he needs me."

"Forgive my selfishness," said the maiden, with a brighter air. "Our parting will not be for long, I hope, and—"

She broke off, with a blush, and drew away from her lover's side. He was also confused; for, at that moment, an inner

door opened, and Gotlieb Von Snooze entered the bar-room, with a cloud of displeasure upon his red face. The case was clear at a glance. There was a skeleton in the closet of our lovers—there was a “stern parent” in the background.

Gotlieb evidently was quite a character. Good-humored, withal, his effort to be severe was a comical exhibition. It would have required a larger shark than the gilded monster upon his sign-post to have swallowed Gotlieb. He evidently weighed in the neighborhood of half five hundred-weight—more or less. His rubicund features and ease-loving air gave token of well-to-do circumstances; and the vast satin waist-coat, which displayed to every advantage his lumbering girth of paunch, bespoke a certain complacency with himself which no one but a successful landlord can assume. He now had a lordly air, as he advanced toward the disconcerted lovers, and his broken English was imbued with severity as he addressed the delinquent Joseph :

“Vat for you goes mit mine Katrina, eh, you young vagabone?” exclaimed Gotlieb. “Vat for you forgets mine injunction, eh?”

The young man suddenly forgot his embarrassment, and spoke out boldly :

“I return to Katrina because I love her and she loves me, mynheer,” said he. “You said if I distinguished myself in the war you would—”

“Oh, yah!” said Gotlieb, with a sneer. “So you be von General, now, eh? or von colonel? Vel, vel, vat do you makes?”

“I am neither a General nor a colonel, yet,” said the young man. “But I fought well at Ticonderoga, if I say it myself; and General Arnold made me a sergeant for it. And I fought better at Quebec, was wounded in the thigh, and am promised a lieutenant’s commission, next week.”

The proprietor of pretty Katrina and the Golden Shark shook his head, but there evidently was a mitigation of his scorn for the young man’s suit.

“Pretty vell for a beginning,” said he; “but nutting but von captioning can have Katrina. Vy, she has already had von offer from a colonel, and wouldn’t have him. ’Tis de vay mit de womans, Joseph. If I vasn’t so old, I would shoulder de

yager myself, and go mit Vashington. See, I vould grasp de weapon of mine faders, and rush to de vars, for de liberty."

As he spoke, the old man reached over the counter and took from its stays a formidable old blunderbuss, of the most ancient type—short and thick, huge in the butt, with a muzzle like a funnel—which appeared as if a pound of powder and a quart-measure of slugs would be but a moderate charge. Gotlieb put on a somewhat gladiatorial air as he shouldered this piece of ordnance, and his tones were of a martial order as he cried :

" Forvard, march ! fight him for de faderland !" And he began to strut the bar-room to the martial music of an imaginary drum and fife.

" Bravo !" cried the young man, with difficulty containing his mirth. " Bravo ! And now give me a parting kiss, Katrina, for I am off."

" Joe, Joe, dear Joe ! where *are* you going ?" sobbed Katrina, with her arms about his neck.

" To earn my captain's commission !" replied the youth, resolutely ; and, with a last loving embrace, he sprung through the open door, and was gone.

Katrina then sat down on a bench, and cried as if her little heart would break. Her father returned the blunderbuss to its place on the wall, and then stood before his daughter, looking as if about to blubber himself.

" Vat for you make so much cry, my darling ?" he asked.

" Because you sent Joe away. He—he'll be killed—I—I know he will !" sobbed the girl, with the corners of her white apron at her eyes. ;

Old Gotlieb sat by her side, and took her upon his knees.

" Listen, mine little von," said he. " Joe is von fine young feller. You t'inks dat I don't like him ? Den you don't know your fader. I likes de young man, but I vants him to do more for de coontry. By keeping you avay from him, I spurs him onvard. Never fear ; he vill makes glory and coom back in von little vile. Dere ! dere !"

His voice was tender and sweet, and Katrina laid her pretty head upon his massive shoulder, and began to dry her tears. .

CHAPTER II.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

A short distance from the door of the Golden Shark, and Joe's brisk pace slackened perceptibly, until he fell into a moody saunter, and the cheerfulness went out of his face in the same proportion.

The young man began to ponder upon the captain's commission. His face grew longer as he did so; for then, even more than now, a musket in the ranks was much more easily obtained than the pomp and circumstance of a sword and cash. In the midst of his despondent meditation, and while he was standing on the curbstone, a cavalryman, who was riding past, suddenly halted and hailed him. Joe looked up and saw a friend. Mutual greetings were exchanged.

"And how about your lieutenancy?" asked the horseman. "You have a blue look for such a fortunate fellow."

"I want to be a captain," said poor Joe, with laconic simplicity.

"What, already?" exclaimed the other, laughing. "Nevertheless, I believe there's a chance for one up there at head-quarters."

"Where? How?" exclaimed Joe, eagerly.

"The General is in search of a scout for a service of extreme danger. But you'd better not apply. They say that capture and a hempen cravat is by far the likeliest reward to be won. I must be off. Good-by."

And the horseman put spurs to his steed, while the young man hastened to head-quarters. In a few moments he was there.

So intent was he upon an immediate audience, that he paid no attention to the throng upon the pavement, and was about to go up the steps, when his progress was arrested by the crooked bayonets of the two guards at the door.

"Halt! Your business?"

"I wish to see General Washington," said Joe.

"For what?"

I heard that he wanted a scout for special service, and I thought—”

“Pass in.”

The young man entered the building, and was ushered upstairs into an antechamber, where he was left alone. He had ample time for reflection, and was soon lost in thought, as he gazed out upon the water; for the window overlooked the broad expanse of New York bay, and you could see through the Narrows, though the weather was hazy, with now and then a glimpse of the topmasts of some British blockader, on the outside. Presently, a voice of singular depth and sweetness commingled aroused him from his reverie. He turned quickly, and a feeling rushed into his heart to seize the hand of the man before him and cover it with kisses. As it was, he made a low obeisance, for he was in the presence of George Washington.

“You wished to see me, my friend?”

The General's voice was so kind, and his manner so reassuring, as well as dignified, that Joe's embarrassment gave way to confidence, and he had no hesitation in saying:

“Yes, General. I desired that honor, because I heard you were in need of a special scout.”

“I do need such a person,” said the General. “Your name and rank, if you please?”

“My name is Joseph Wilder,” said the youth. “I am at present convalescent and out of service, but am in daily expectation of my commission as lieutenant.”

“The special service I have in view is of extraordinary risk, lieutenant.”

“I am fond of danger, General.”

The General smiled.

“Is that the only reason you seek the present employment?” he inquired.

“No, General, it is not. To tell the truth, I—I—in fact, I—”

In a few moments, General Washington knew all about pretty Katrina, Gotlieb Von Snooze, the Old Dutch Wunderbuss, and every thing else pertaining to the Golden Shirk tavern.

“I will gladly engage you, lieutenant,” said the commander,

still smiling, "and have no fear but that a captain's commission will attend success in the enterprise. I am a man of few words. Listen: the English have landed on the upper part of the island—Long Island—with their vanguard between Utrecht and Gravesend. There is a place called Bushy Cave somewhere on the shore behind Utrecht. Do you know the place?"

"I was born within a mile of it, General."

"Good. General Howe has his head-quarters in the vicinity of this place. General De Heister's is not far off. I expect an attack at any moment, but desire to know *the* moment. There is, I think, but one mode of obtaining this information."

"And that mode, General?"

"Is to eaves-drop at General Howe's tent, or at De Heister's—for they are intimate friends, and are probably frequently in each other's tents. Can you perform this mission?"

"Yes, General."

"I admire your courage; but do not underrate the peril. You must even find out the position of the British commander's head-quarters. They are probably in the heart of the enemy's army."

"General, I am willing to take the chance. I shall perform the service if possible."

"I believe you. When you have obtained all the information possible, before returning to me, you must communicate it to General Sullivan, commanding our troops on the island. Now you know my object, what is your plan of procedure?"

"To pull up the bay to-night, land beyond Utrecht, and then push in through their lines."

"That is the boldest, therefore the best. How many men do you desire to accompany you?"

"None."

"What, alone?"

"Yes, General; the fewer feet the less noise."

"It is well," said the commander. "Do you desire anything for an outfit?"

"Only your blessing, General."

"You have it, my lad, with all my heart," said the commander, cordially. "And—wait a moment."

He pulled a bell-cord, and a servant appeared.

"Wine."

And, in a few moments, the wine also appeared.

The General filled two glasses, presented one to Lieutenant Wilder, and took the other himself. Then, touching the Lieutenant's glass with his own, he said, with his beautiful smile:

"Lieutenant, this is to your safe return, and—to pretty Katrina."

Joe blushed happily as he drank this pledge. Then he arose, saluted the General with profound respect, and left the room.

CHAPTER III.

THE RIVALS.

The entrance of the young patriot to the bar-room of the Golden Shark had been watched by jealous eyes. And scarcely had he quitted the tavern before the man who observed him so closely stepped from a pretentious house, and crossed the street to the tavern, which was immediately opposite. He entered the bar-room, and called for a glass. By the obsequiousness with which old Godlike served the beverage, the stranger was evidently of some consequence. His garb and mien also indicated affluence. There was a military affectation in his attire, which was of much distinction; nevertheless, he would most likely be taken for a civilian.

This man, a Tory, named Gilbert Whipple, had held office under the king in the revenue service. As a natural consequence, his sympathies were wholly, though secretly, with the royal cause. Some would have called him Land's end. His form was indeed elegant and his manners refined; but there was an expression of the eye and lip which would have excited distrust in the mind of one capable of reading the heart of men by their face.

He gazed earnestly at Katrina—who was still sad from her parting with Joe—but seated himself in silence at one of the little tables of the bar-room. Presently he said:

"Have you any news of what is taking place on the island, mynheer?"

"Naw, Mr. Vipple. Dey keeps it all to demselves, now-a-days."

The gentleman evidently had asked the question merely to say something, and he relapsed, for some moments, into his former silence, though still gazing at the drooping figure of the girl. Then he again said :

"Pray, order my horse, mynheer; I must ride to Harlem. And, while you are about it, please buy for me that new bridle which I saw in the saddler's window, a few doors above here."

"Certainly, Mr. Vipple." And Gotlieb left the room accordingly.

He had scarcely disappeared, before Katrina heard the gentleman call her by name. But his voice was so low that she was not certain.

"Katrina, come here, I wish to talk with you."

This time there was no mistaking, but the voice was singularly low and musical, and strangely at variance with that with which he had addressed her father.

She approached with some hesitation; but she started back, inignant and alarmed, for the gentleman suddenly drew her toward him, and kissed her cheek.

"Psshaw, child! I'm old enough to be your father," said he, soothingly; but the blush remained on Katrina's cheek.

"Come, sit beside me here," he continued. "I wish to talk with you."

She drew still further away.

"The gentleman can speak with me at this distance," she said, quietly.

"No; come, sit down here."

There was a sternness—very slight, yet still perceptible—in his tone, now; and the gentleman must have been a Mesmerist; for he raised his hand, and drew the maiden, still unwilling, to his side, as a magnet draws the steel. Katrina hardly knew how she came to the seat at his side.

"I do not like you," said she, angrily. "Pray let me go away."

"No; I wish to converse with you."

"Of what?"

"Of the young man who visits you. I do not like him."

"I do not care whether you do or not," said Katrina.

The stranger smiled.

"Listen, my child," said he. "Are you not tired of this dull existence?"

"I do not understand you, sir."

"This life of monotony—these dragging days," pursued the man. "Do you not sicken of them? Would you not better 'your lot?'"

"I am very well pleased with my lot," said the maiden, tartly.

"Because you know of no better, my simple child. There is one, more worthy of beauty such as yours—one to which I could lead you. What do you say, Katrina? Would you not like to share my fortune and name?"

"No!" with most unmistakable emphasis.

"I will love you—I will do every thing to make you happy. Come with me, Katrina. Shake off this vulgar inn life, and I will make you the queen of a brilliant circle."

There was something earnest and strange in the voice of the stranger; but Katrina now hated its very music.

"You said you were old enough to be my father," she said, reproachfully.

"But not too old to be a lover, my pretty maid," said the other, with a laugh, and again he sought to prove the sincerity of his regard by a second kiss upon the cheek; but the maiden repulsed him with vigor, and, as he persisted, struck him a stinging box on the ear. A gleam of anger flashed into his cheek, but it was gone again as quickly as it came.

Laughing again, he arose and approached her—for she had risen indignantly to her feet. But the sound of Gullib's return induced the stranger to resume his seat, and merely to say:

"Please bring me some more beer, Katrina."

She meekly did so, for her anger was gone. And then her father entered with the new bridle, and signified to the gentleman that his horse was ready. So Whipple finished his beer, took the new bridle, and quitted the bar-room. In a moment, they heard the clatter of his horse's hoofs.

Then Katrina fell to crying very heartily, and told her father every thing. Gotlieb's honest face grew darker as she spoke. But, he said nothing. He merely went to the counter, took from its place and commenced loading the old blunderbuss.

"Oh, father! what are you going to do?" cried Katrina, terrified.

"Nutting, my tear, nutting," said the old man, quietly. "Only preparing for de foes, if we bes attacked."

In the mean time, young Wilder, after quitting General Washington's presence, made all haste to reach his mother's house, which was situated far up Manhattan island, at a point on the East river side, somewhere in the vicinity of the present junction of Seventy-ninth street with Third avenue. Although the arable portions of the island, above the city, were then taken up as market gardens, there were large uncultivated and solitary tracts—forest, swamp and rocky slopes—which appeared as wild as they must have done when Hendrik Hudson sailed slowly up the stream with the adventurous flag of the Netherlands fluttering to the breeze.

At the edge of a thick forest, which extended in almost unbroken gloom from the line of Third avenue to the East river, was the widow Wilder's cottage; and very pleasant and cheerful it appeared there, with the dark sweep of the woodland in the rear, with its red roof and prim gables, and the sunny vegetable-garden which surrounded it.

Joe, obtaining a "lift" from a Government wagon on the road, reached his mother's garden-gate in good season. She was a hale, vigorous old lady, who greeted her son with a kiss, as he entered the domicil with a buoyant step.

"Good fortune, mother! What do you think?"

"You must have received your lieutenancy, Joe. That's it!" she replied.

"No I haven't."

"What then?"

"I'm to win a captaincy this very night. But, the best of the luck is, that I have seen General Washington. I have grasped his hand. I have drank wine with him. Huzza!"

"Not possible, my boy!"

"Yes! and he toasted me—he drank my health!"

"Now, Joe, you're joking. No? Well, tell me what the General said. Do tell me, dear boy."

"Here's to your safe return—and to pretty Katrina!" How is that?"

"Glorious! My boy is rising in the world. But," continued the widow, with sudden anxiety in her voice, "but why drink to 'your safe return?' Where are you going, Joe?"

"Can't tell, mother. Secret, you know—must be kept. I'll tell you when I come back."

He kissed her gayly, and his tone was so light and easy that the old lady's anxiety quickly gave place to a pleasant pride for the honor which had come upon her house. And her son then went up stairs to make his preparations.

In doing this, Joe was very circumspect. His first measure was to change his dress for a rude fisherman's garb, which he had frequently worn before the war. He then put on his belt, placed two pistols—which he examined carefully to see that they were loaded and primed—and a hunting-knife in their several sheaths—his long pea-jacket completely concealing them.

He then sat down and wrote a little note to his mother, sealed it, and left it on a spot where he knew it was her custom to visit every few days. In this note he mentioned the object and danger of his mission, intending that she should know his fate, in case of accident. For the young man was not without his misgivings. He had put on an air of cheerfulness for his mother's sake. Nevertheless, he was by no means despondent. He was simply a sensible fellow, who made it a point to look at both sides of a thing, and, if the dark was in excess of the bright, to take his precautions accordingly.

Having finished his preparations up stairs, he went below, and got his mother to fill him a haversack with sandwiches. And, while she was making them, he lay down upon a lounge in the comfortable sitting-room, and fell fast asleep.

It was almost dark when he awoke, and he sprung to his feet, refreshed and alert. Hastily swallowing his supper, which already awaited him, he slung his haversack over his

shoulder, embraced his mother, and left the house by the back door. Then going to a little stable, which stood a short distance in the rear of the cottage, he took therefrom a pair of long, slender, beautifully-made oars, threw them over his shoulder, taking a narrow path which wound in a north-easterly direction through the forest.

There was a lingering of twilight in the open country, but Joe seemed to enter a sudden realm of midnight, so dense were the woods into which the path soon led him. But he knew his bearings perfectly, and kept straight on, with no sound but his own footsteps. As he approached the river, however, he heard voices, and instinctively slackened his pace and proceeded on tiptoe. The voices momentarily grew louder as he approached, until they became distinctly audible. Presently, he perceived the outlines of the speakers. They were standing in an open glade, where there was light enough to distinguish their forms. Joe crept close up where he might observe and hear what was said. One of the forms was that of a man he knew—a man in a riding-habit, with the spurs at his heels, and a heavy whip in his hand, with the butt of which he was gesticulating earnestly to his comrade, who was a person of humbler appearance, but well armed and powerful build. With the form of these men we are already acquainted. It was Gilbert Whipple. Joe had long suspected that he was a traitor, and therefore pricked up his ears to catch every sound.

"You must go within an hour," said Whipple. "Be sure and make no delay."

"I will make a sure thing of it, Mr. Whipple. But the British patrol the whole lower bay. How am I to pass them?"

"By giving the countersign, which is this: 'The king's cause prospers.' This will let you pass every thing. Then you are to land on Staten Island, just this side of the Narrows. I have already given you directions how to find the old stone house, after you get there."

"Very good, sir. I understand that I am merely to make preparations for her reception, to-morrow night. You are not ready to run off the little barge till then, and I shall—"

"Of whom do you speak, sir?" exclaimed the other, his voice rising with anger.

"Of the little Dutch damsel, Katrina. (Joe almost started

from his hiding-place at the mention of this name.) "I beg pardon," continued the man, "I meant no disrespect."

"Take care of your tongue, my lad, or it may give you trouble. The person whom I make my wife is a lady. But I have no time to quarrel now. You understand every thing. Is your boat close at hand?"

"She lies in the water right at the end of the path."

"Very good. Make your preparations immediately, and do not fail to start before nine o'clock."

"Never fear me, sir."

And the man left the little glade, and struck through the wood in a north-easterly direction, probably intending to seek his home before starting upon his mission.

The Tory remained in the glade, apparently lost in thought. Joe was full of apprehension and rage at what he had heard. He knew Whipple to be a dangerous and powerful man, but he was totally unprepared to find him the unprincipled villain which his own words had betrayed him to be. Joe safely put down his oars, and relieved himself of his leveret-k, drew a pistol from his belt, and prepared to attack his foe. Then he paused in the midst of his anger, and reflected. He dared not—could not shoot the man from his ambush. His noble nature revolted from such a deed. He must give his foeman warning, and fight him up on a fair field, when victory was by no means certain, for Whipple was the best pistol-shot on the island, and a man of prodigious muscular power besides. Under other circumstances than those in which he now found himself, such considerations as these last named would never have crossed his mind for an instant. He would have entered upon the contest with the confidence of his vigorous, fearless youth, and with all the power of his impetuous nature. But now he was hampered by a weighty consideration—his duty. General Washington had confided to him an important trust. Had he a right to hazard it? Should even his most cherished feelings induce him to risk the safety of that trust? While he thus deliberated with himself, his uncle as an enemy strode off through the woods.

When his foeman was really out of his reach, Wilder sat down in the little glade, and so great was his emotion, that he with difficulty restrained his tears. His breast had been the

theater of a painful conflict between opposing duties—his duty to Katrina and his duty to country. If the latter had at last triumphed, it was at the expense of a struggle which left him irresolute and feeble. He was full of forebodings. If he should meet with accident—if he should be captured, what would become of Katrina? He shuddered at the thought of her falling into the power of the villain who was plotting her abduction. And there was not even time to give warning to old Gotlieb. If he could have done that, he would have departed with a lighter heart. But he was already tardy; he should have been half way down the river by this time. At length he sprung to his feet with a fierce impulse.

"By heaven!" he exclaimed. "This discovery which I have made must have been providential. It was meant to spur me onward in the present undertaking. Success was barely possible before; now I must not—can not fail."

He again took up his oars and haversack, and proceeded toward the river with a more determined step than ever. One satisfaction, at least, was the countersign, which he had been so fortunate as to overhear.

He was not long now in reaching the place where his boat was moored. Arriving there, he looked around in hopes of discovering the boat which Whipple's minion had spoken of, and was not long in finding her snugly hid away up among the long grass and stunted willows at the water's edge.

"I wonder if she's seaworthy," muttered the youth to himself, at the same time drawing the light craft upon the shore and turning her bottom up.

He then drew his heavy hunting knife, and began cutting a hole through her with all speed. Having succeeded in making quite a respectable breach in her bottom, he stuffed the aperture full of the long grass, which he plucked and twisted in large knots for the purpose. Having made it temporarily water-tight, he again set her afloat just as he had found her. He then threw his haversack and oars into his own boat, got in himself, and shoved off. Several strokes of the well-handled blade, and he was far out in the stream. There he paused; for he saw a man emerge from the wood, and, judging that it must be the proprietor of the boat which he had manipulated, he wished to see the result.

The man got in his boat, pushed off, and was soon pulling down the river after Joe at a lively speed. Joe kept ahead of him, watching expectantly. A stiff breeze blew up the river, and the water was rough. Presently Joe had the satisfaction of seeing the man turn, haul his oars, and then saw him pull off his jacket and stuff it into the hole. This done, he steered for the shore at once.

"I think *his* voyage to Staten Island is spoiled for this night, at any rate," muttered Joe, and he bent with vigor to his oars.

The Americans patrolled the rivers and the upper portion of the bay. The spy had been provided with a password for this emergency, and, though frequently interrupted in his voyage, he was soon on the open bay, beyond Governor's Island, with an apparently free passage down.

He then drew in one oar, and, seating himself in the stern, used the other after the manner of a scull; for he wished to see where he was going.

CHAPTER IV.

THE TORIES IN COUNCIL.

In leaving the wood, where he had given his instructions to his assistant, Gilbert Whipple did not take a homeward direction, but resumed his saddle, and set out, at a hard gallop, for the north. In fifteen minutes he was at Harlem, where he stabled his steed, and proceeded to the river's edge, with the air of a man who was on the lookout for a signal. There were but few houses in Harlem at that period, and the shores of the river, especially that portion of them in the vicinity of our present High-Bridge, were exceedingly wild and desolate in appearance.

He looked in vain across the water for the signal, which he seemed to be expecting, and then made his way up the shore, now and then casting his glance anxiously to the opposite side. Presently he reached that portion of the river-bank where it becomes precipitous, and continued his way with

much more difficulty than before, and with ill-concealed dissatisfaction. But his ill-humor was presently dispelled; for when he had reached a high portion of the bank, he saw a little gleam of light shoot up in the gloom of the opposite shore, and then vanish away.

He halted and looked again. The signal was repeated. Apparently satisfied, he hastened down the steep bank to the water's edge. Bending low, he blew a small whistle, and looked over the water, as if in confident awaiting. Soon a little boat shot out into the stream from the opposite bank, and rapidly approached him. It contained only one oarsman, but he was a good one.

When the boat arrived within a few yards of the bank, the oarsman suddenly laid upon his oars, and propounded the following question, in a low but distinct tone:

"Who rules the land?"

"The king," was the cautious reply.

"What is he worth?"

"Dying for."

The oarsman appeared satisfied, and backed the stern of his light craft against the shore. Whipple stepped into it without a word, and they glided out upon the starlit stream, toward the opposite shore, which was soon reached. The passenger then stepped from the boat, dropped a piece of money into the boatman's hand, and disappeared among the dense timber with which the land was clothed. That side of the river was rocky, and Whipple had considerable difficulty in making his way up the steep and wooded bank.

You would not have supposed there was a human habitation within a hundred yards of the place, it appeared so wild and solitary. But the Tory had not gone a dozen rods before he came in sight of a rude but substantial building of stone, located on the summit of the ridge, in the center of a pleasant little wold, or open glade, although so thoroughly belt-ed round by timber as to be completely hid from view, even from the high ground of the opposite shore.

It was a two-story building, large, apparently commodious, and with an air of affluence in the excellence of its outside belongings—the shutters (which were glass'd) being heavy and well made, and the roof a handsome sloping affair of substantial

slate. Every thing was silent about the place, and not a gleam of light discernible. The gruff growl of a watch-dog, and the unpleasant rattling of a chain, informed the approaching Tory that caution was necessary.

It is an uncomfortable sensation of a dark night, at all times—that ominous rattling of a watch-dog's chain, as you are blundering over unfamiliar ways, toward a strange habitation. Whipple liked it so little, that, before proceeding further, he paused and looked about for a club of some sort, while the object of his apprehension gave utterance to loud barks.

The door of the mansion opened; some one stepped out, and the low tones of a man's voice were heard quieting the dog. The man, who had issued from the house, however, motioned him off when within a few paces, and questioned him, much in the same manner as the boatman had already done:

"Who wins the fight?"

"God and the right."

"The countersign give."

"Qui tute!"

"Pass in, sir," said the man, and Whipple entered the hall, which was as dark as the tomb.

The man followed, closing the door, when the darkness of the hall became impenetrable.

"What is the meaning of this?" asked Whipple, angrily. "Are not our friends arrived?"

"Yes, sir. But it is necessary to be thus cautious," was the reply. "Pray have a moment's patience, sir. There is no fear of stumbling. Here are the stairs. Follow me, and you will soon have light."

Groping forward, Whipple reached the top of the staircase, when his guide suddenly threw open a door. The Tory started back, and covered his eyes, for the glare of light which rushed through the opening was dazzling in the darkness.

He heard a number of voices in the chamber, and, after gradually encountering the glare until it ceased to pain him, he entered the apartment, the door being closed by a hand behind him.

Had he been a stranger to the mansion, he would probably

have given utterance to an exclamation of astonishment as he entered the chamber. It seemed almost like enchantment that such a gorgeous, glittering, and by no means silent, scene should be inclosed within the four walls whose exterior had been so profoundly gloomy and lifeless.

It was a large, high roofed room, magnificently decorated, and most brilliantly illuminated by a costly candelabrum, which hung from the center of the ceiling. The windows and shutters were scrupulously closed. The former were superbly gilded, and curtained with drooping blue damask of the most costly description. The ceiling was frescoed with enchanting and voluptuous images, and thickly strown with gilded stars; while the walls were of a light, bright azure, relieved at regular intervals by pilasters of white and gold. Between the pilasters, as well as between the windows, were hung paintings, representing landscapes of a rich and tropical character, and surrounded by frames of the most showy and costly kind.

In the center of this magnificent apartment was standing a long table, whereon was heaped a feast in keeping with the surrounding splendor, and there were several gentlemen and ladies doing it ample justice. The poverty of America was extreme at this time, which made it a matter of conjecture as to the origin of all this splendor; for the costumes of the guests were as rich and brilliant as any thing else, and the cost of the banquet alone must have been considerable.

A welcome from many voices greeted Gilbert Whipple as he entered; but the gentleman who had the head of the board, and who appeared to be the host, quickly arose from his seat, and advanced toward the new-comer, with extended hand:

"A thousand welcomes, my dear Whipple, to our humble fare!" he exclaimed, as he shook his hand and bade him to a seat at the table next his own.

The new-comer, evidently, had been a guest at the house before, for he soon made himself at his ease with every one, and especially with the excellent cheer, which the entertainer had affectingly denominated "humble fare."

The party was composed of eight persons, besides Whipple, and the striking appearance of some of them deserves more than a cursory glance.

The owner of this princely abode—whom we have already briefly introduced as “the host”—was an Englishman by birth, but a long resident of America, and one of the most powerful and influential allies of the royal authority in the land. His existence is a historical fact, but, for several reasons, we will give him the fictitious name of Roger Delaney. He was probably fifty years of age. His deportment was commanding, and even noble. His face had that bright, slightly rubicund expression so plainly indicative of a life of ease and luxury, with placid, good-humored features, closely shaven, and the silver of time beginning to streak his hair, which was devoid of powder, then requisite to the full-dress costume. This gentleman was a man of enormous wealth—chiefly accumulated in the slave-trade—and, just before the inception of actual hostilities, he had retired from business to the mansion wherein we now find him, an English gentleman fitted up, luxuriously, regardless of expense; while, at the same time, he had made the extremity of plainness his study in the exterior appointments of the house—probably with the purpose of attracting as little attention as possible from the American authorities, to whom he was partially known as a royalist. Here he was enabled to entertain his friends, and enjoy, like it, the luxury to which his wealth had accustomed him, in a quiet, private style.

A handsome lady of middle age, seated at the other extremity of the board, was Miss Delaney, wife of the host. She was attired with extraordinary elegance, and her hair was elaborately dressed and powdered. They had no children; hence the lady of that wealthy household had little else to think of save her personal appearance.

There were present two other ladies, young and very stylish in appearance, who had come from the South within the last few days, as fugitive Tories, and were friends of Delaney. Norden was very remarkable in their company, and that they were attired in the light of the sun, and with unusual elegance, as, indeed, were the members of the party—four gentlemen, of whom but one is of sufficient importance to demand notice. He was scarcely twenty-five and of extraordinary personal beauty. Of medium height, but with slender, knit frame, he had a Spanish look in his dark, handsome face,

which was well relieved by the mass of powdered hair, surmounting and clustering round it. He was dressed in the naval garb of a British officer, and wore a small ivory-handled pistol in his belt, which was not considered inappropriate to the exigencies of the times. This was Guy Madden, a midshipman of the British ship-of-war *Arethusa*, which was at that time lying in Long Island sound, at the junction of the East river. He was on her deck not three hours before his introduction that evening to the mansion, and it was not without extreme peril that he had made the passage of the East and Harlem rivers to enjoy the entertainment of Rupert Delaney.

Now, there would be little interest in recording any of the conversation which took place among this coterie of Tories, if they were *all* Tories. But one of the young ladies whom we have so cursorily described—a Miss Wainwright, of Norfolk, Virginia—possessed a little of the liberty-loving enthusiasm in her loyalist composition, and, although she affected to believe, perhaps really believed, in the cause of the king, whenever any thing specially severe was said against the rebels, you might see a little blush of native pride bridle up into her cheek, and her pretty lip tremble as if about to retort. This was generally suppressed, however, when the scathing words fell from young Madden's lips; nevertheless, now and then the American spirit would vindicate itself in a passionate outburst.

"I think you are too severe, sir," she said, in reply to some jeering partisan remarks which Whipple had just uttered. "The rebels are not without many provocations to their insurrection. They have suffered much—contumely, contempt, every thing. I think they should all be borne—I think the authority of the king is sacred. But, do not overlook the provocations which have impelled the Americans to rebellion. Blame, if you will, but do not *keep* the blame!"

"Miss Wainwright is very much American in her sympathies," said Whipple, with a smile in which there was a shadow of a sneer.

"It is because I was born in America," retorted the lady. "I love my country, what ever it be."

"I love the sentiment—it is noble!" said Guy Madden, bowing to her. "I would love my country—I would fight

for it, if that country was a desert or a snowy waste. For my part, I am an Englishman—I am full of the natural prejudices belonging to my country, and I would die for her. But, before God, if I was born in America, it would be otherwise."

An expression of displeasure appeared upon the countenances of the rest of the company—with the exception of Miss Wainwright's—at this declaration.

"What do you mean, Gay?" asked Delaney. "You surely can not pretend to say that if you were an American—"

"I would fight for America," exclaimed the young man, with heat. "What is a country worth, if it is not worth dying for? I love America because I can not help it. It would be the same if my lot had been cast on this side of the ocean."

"Bravo!" cried Miss Wainwright, clapping her hands, to the evident disgust of her young lady friend, who, from her startled demeanor, must have been born in England.

"I do not like these sentiments," said Gilbert Whipple. "A man should love his sovereign under all circumstances. King George is as much the monarch of America as of England."

"Then should not the Americans have equal rights with the Englishmen?" asked Miss Wainwright.

"Certainly. And do they not?"

"Not at all."

"In what way?"

"Why are they not allowed a representation in Parliament?" said the lady. "Englishmen have this privilege. If America is the same as England, in your eyes, why should they be taxed equally with England, if they have not equal representation?"

"Bravo! Bravely argued!" cried the miller, with a laugh.

"They should not have equal privileges because they are colonies," said Whipple.

"I agree with you, sir, perfectly," said Mr. Delaney; and the other four gentlemen signified approval by their demeanour.

"The gentleman has cause to argue," said the lady, with a curling lip. "I presented him with a fair question; he replies in the cant of partisan feeling."

"I do not," exclaimed Whipple, almost angrily. "I gave you a fair answer."

Guy Madden was sitting next to Whipple—he whispered in his ear:

"Have a care, my friend! The person to whom you speak is a lady."

Whipple flushed up, angrily, but subdued his vexation almost as soon as it appeared.

"To change the subject," said he, "how goes the war? What are our prospects, midshipman?"

"Every thing we could wish for, I think," said Madden. He now spoke with all the zeal of a sailor in the British cause. "The battle which is to decide the fate of your city of Manhattan is on the threshold of commencement. There can be no doubt of the result."

"Hardly any," said Whipple. "But have you no apprehensions of Washington?"

"I'm a Tory," said Miss Wainwright, "but I'm a believer in Washington's abilities. He is a glorious soldier."

"My opinion of General Washington," said the host, "is by no means exalted. He is a rebel—a man of excellent education, if you will, but, on that very account, so much the more culpable for being a rebel to the Government of England."

"I rather agree with Miss Wainwright, than with you," said Midshipman Madden. "I can not understand, from the standpoint which I occupy as an Englishman, how a man like George Washington—as well as many other of the rebel leaders—can bring themselves to this error of disloyalty. Nevertheless, it is not in the province of a man of my few years to criticise the conduct of an intellect such as is possessed by men so much my superior as are these gentlemen. They unquestionably believe that what they do is for the best. Miss Wainwright says that he is a 'glorious General.' I concur in this view. I can appreciate the man, though his conviction is against my own."

The host looked displeased at hearing these sentiments. Whipple replied, with considerable of irony in his tones:

"My dear fellow, you do not talk as I love to hear Englishmen talk. There is one thing about General Washington, and about the class of Americans of which he is the exponent:

he is a traitor. He fights his king. That is enough for me. The crime is without exculpation. It is treason. Every loyalist should fight against him."

"Why does not Mr. Whipple do so, then?" exclaimed the British midshipman. "I fight against him. So do most Englishmen. Why does not Mr. Whipple do the same?"

"I do so—I fight for my king, if I do it in an indirect way," was the reply. "My position—my wealth is employed against his enemies."

"But not your hand. You do not risk the chance of even a random bullet," said the midshipman. "If your belief is genuine, you should certainly fight for it."

Whipple grew very angry for a moment, but he was really on good terms with the officer, and he laughed off his own delinquency to the cause in a light way.

And now the night grew late, and the ladies retired. The gentlemen remained with their wine and their politics until a late hour. Whipple then proposed to Mullin that he should exchange his uniform for a civilian's dress, and accompany him to his own house, where they would finish the night together, and he—Mullin—could return to his ship on the following day. The invitation was accepted, and after bidding farewell to their genial host, they departed on their way to the city.

This scene will illustrate, in a measure, the characteristics of the time, as well as the drift of various opinions, which, on rare occasions, inclined the minds of the British and their Tory allies.

CHAPTER V. DANGEROUS GROUND.

OWING to the mode of navigation which he had adopted, Joe Wilder proceeded but slowly down the bay. Besides, even this much of his voyage was not untroubled by danger. The water was very rough, and it required the greatest skill to keep his little craft from filling.

The night was beautiful, with scarcely a cloud. The camp-fires of the American camp—the right wing of which rested on the bay, just beyond Governor's Island—were burning brightly, and the hum of the soldiers, at their evening meal, came over the waters to the ear of the lonely boatman. Far down the bay, to the left of the Narrows, he could also see the twinkle of the British camp, with a glimmer here and there on the Staten Island side, for some of the English troops still remained there.

He kept on his way, taking the center of the bay as nearly as possible, as the route least likely to be interrupted by the patrolling boats. He began to flatter himself that he was about to escape them altogether, when his quick ear caught the sound of oars in their row-locks, and presently he saw a six-oared pinnace making toward him, but at a considerable distance. Boldness was his only cue, so he pushed forward.

“What boat is that?” was sung out from the bow of the pinnace.

“It's no difference to you, so long as ‘the king's cause prospers,’” replied our hero, as cool as a cucumber.

“All right! Round to, lads!” said the Britisher; and, in a few moments, her six long sweeps had carried the pinnace far away.

“Good for a beginning,” chuckled the young man. “What in the deuce would I have done if I hadn't met those fellows in the forest?”

Still cautious, he kept on his way. He was now approaching the Narrows, and not far from the point at which he had decided to land. This was a small promontory, a short distance from where you now turn in between Fort Lafayette and the Long Island beach. But he saw that this promontory was occupied—a camp-fire was burning at its extremity—and he was obliged to alter his plan. Quick at a fresh expedient when an old one failed, Joe kept on straight through the Narrows, though the sea ran high, and presently rounded into the little bay which is formed between Coney Island and the main shore of Long Island, just outside the present Fort Lafayette. A landing here, he was confident, would bring him altogether in the rear of the British position.

He soon made the desired landing, after encountering and

passing several more patrolling boats, and making his skiff secure in a little jungle of reeds and stunted trees, proceeded cautiously inland, with his faculties strained to their utmost capacity.

A perfect solitude seemed to reign over the land. Fortunately for the spy, the nature of the country was broken and woody, with here and there a salt marsh, covered with tall reeds, which also afforded an excellent concealment.

Joe had a clear head as well as a stout heart. Whenever he concocted a plan, he did it systematically. He always had something to determine first; and this he always satisfied himself upon before proceeding to the next proposition. His first desideratum in the present instance was this: the British army countersign. This was indispensable, as a preliminary to the accomplishment of his dangerous mission; and he racked his brains to obtain a means to this end. At length he decided that the only way was to steal up a sentinel, and lie in wait, in hopes that some other would come along, from whom he could catch the precious words.

Presently he heard the singular calls and responses of the enemy's pickets, which apprised him that he must exercise even greater caution than heretofore. He had been much on the frontier, and was as familiar with woodcraft as a born backwoodsman. Flinging himself down, he crawled on all fours toward the sentry whose voice had sounded nearest. Fortunately, he found in this soldier a stupid Hessian, posted in a small opening in the thicket. He approached as nearly as safety would permit, and lay in wait.

There was no moonlight yet, but the stars were unusually bright, and he could plainly discern every motion of the sentinel, who kept up a sleepy pace to and fro, every now and then singing out his "all's well" to the next picket, who was probably a furlong away.

Joe had not long to wait before an officer, on his rounds, came to the picket, and gave the countersign, but in a voice so low that only the sentry could hear it. Clinging flat at his ill-success, he resolved to approach the sentry nearer, even at some risk; and, as soon as the officer had departed, he cautiously crawled forward, keeping as closely within the shadow of the wood as was possible. Once he was almost discovered.

He overturned a rattling branch of dead holly, and the sentry wheeled, with a start, his hand upon the trigger of his fire-lock. But the scout sunk into the grass as noiselessly as a serpent, and, after a moment of breathless suspense, the German laughed at himself, and continued his tramp.

Exercising still greater caution, calculating every movement with the utmost precision, Joe continued to crawl along, until he reached a double tree, almost within touching distance of the sentry. Behind this admirable screen he ensconced himself, and waited a long time with bated breath. Even then he did not have the chance of obtaining his end through the agency of this individual, who was, in the course of an hour, relieved by another sentry. The new man was also a Hessian, and Joe studied him well—the moonlight, which now began to strike the glade as the moon arose above the trees, affording an ample opportunity for observation. He was a younger, stronger, readier chap than his predecessor, and Joe apprehended trouble.

After another long hour of suspense, the officer of the guard again came round, and Joe had, this time, the infinite satisfaction of hearing the countersign, "Blenheim," fall from his lips.

The next consideration was to be able to appear as a British soldier. This was more difficult of accomplishment; for it was evident that he must first obtain a uniform. There was, therefore, something critical in the examination to which the unconscious sentry was subjected by the spy. Evidently he was studying the German's figure to see if his clothes would be a good fit for a Yankee. Having satisfied himself on this point, Joe unbuttoned his pea-jacket, and drew his shining hunting-knife from its sheath.

He returned it to his belt, however, and paused thoughtfully. It was necessary for the success of his plan that this man should die; and yet the young American hesitated. He could not strike a secret blow, in howsoever noble a cause—it was impossible. Nevertheless, he had to make up his mind quickly, and this he did.

"I will snatch his musket away," he thought, "and if he is noiseless, I will give him a fair chance. That is the best I can do."

The sentry, who kept up his walk continually, was, at the half of every round, with his back to the trees. Noting his chance when the Hessian's back was turned, he glided from his covert, and followed him as noiselessly as his own shadow. Just as the soldier turned in his beat, he felt his musket torn from him, and, whirling suddenly in his tracks, beheld the scout, with his hand upon his knife.

Before the sentry could utter a cry, the hand of his enemy was upon his throat. The fellow was a man of courage and presence of mind. His musket gone, he was unarmed; but, he grappled and fought hard. Wilder had met a man who was more than his match in physical power; but the knife, which he held in his grasp, gave him the advantage. There was a fierce struggle, and then he gave it home, straight to the heart of the Hessian, who fell back, dead, without a groan.

Wilder was too cool to acknowledge to himself that it was not a fair fight. But the odds which he staked were enormous, and he had little time in which to moralize. Pale from the death-struggle, he drew the Hessian's body of the soldier far into the shadow of the dense forest, and commenced to divest him of his clothing and to attire himself in the same. This task was soon completed, and, having killed a the body securely and safely beneath a pile of old brushwood and boughs, he took the fallen musket, and kept up the regular round of the sentry, resolved to wait until a change of guard. In less than an hour, the officer of the guard came around, and relieved him, ordering him to camp.

Joe followed silently. The officer was very talkative, which made Joe very impatient. For, although the disguised sentry answered as few questions as possible, and then in the best of his broken English, he was in an apprehension that the officer would notice his story.

At length, as they arrived at an exceedingly lonely spot in the forest, and just as Joe had just at last to submit question of the officer, the latter suddenly awoke suddenly, and looked with hawk-eyes into his face.

"You're a spy!" said the officer, and drawing his sword.

"I am," said Wilder, coolly, and, quick as lightning, he drew his dagger from its scabbard.

They closed, with a shriek, and rolled over on the ground

together, the officer's head striking a boulder so heavily as to completely stun him.

"There's but one way," muttered Joe to himself, as he rose upon his knees. "I wish there was another, but there isn't." He let drive with his knife, and the Hessian captain was a dead man.

All this may seem a cruel recital, but we must remember what was at stake. If the scout had been taken he would have been hung. Every chance had to be weighed with blood in one side of the balance. There was neither time nor tide for ingenuous scruples. To succeed, was the soldier's duty.

Having rid himself of this enemy, our spy's next care was to again make an alteration in his costume. For, he rightly judged that, as an officer, he would have much larger margin for action than as a soldier. So he discarded his own coat and hat for that of the dead German, possessed himself of the sash and sword, and proceeded on his way more confident than ever. It seemed to him that he had waded his way in blood to this point, so quickly successive had been these adventures; but, the thought of the stake confirmed his courage and decision to accomplish all or die.

Without hesitation he approached the next sentry.

"Who goes there?"

"A friend."

"Approach, and give the countersign."

He went nearer, and whispered "Blenheim," which did not fail to satisfy the picket.

"What do you see about here now?" inquired the officer, in excessively broken English.

"Nutting petie'lar," said the Hessian, eyeing him sharply. "De captain is accustomed to speak to his own soldiers in de German language," he continued.

"Dat ish true," said Joe; "but we're Englishmen, now: vy not tries to learn de language, eh?"

"I likes de ole country talk, jis' de same," replied the other.

"Ah, geot! Shust pe a Sharman as mood as you blust. Vare Sheneral De Heister moved his tent to, does you thinks?"

"Vy, it's only von mile from here, in von straight line jis de way you stand."

"Wat! so near as dat! Well, I moes be goin'." And the pseudo-officer sauntered off through the woods.

One more sentry was encountered and got rid of in the same way, when our hero found himself, to his great joy, in the vicinity of the tent of the Hessian commander.*

He approached what he supposed to be General De Heister's tent. Not a soul was visible, but a light was burning within. The adventurer moved noiselessly toward the tent. Peering cautiously beneath the canvas, he saw an officer busily writing at a little table in the center.

This officer was a man of middle-age, dark complexion, and with a face denoting frankness of character. His fatigue-dress was of the low German pattern, and the sword, which hung from a movable loop in the canvas, was also of the heavy Beltsia style, unlike those usually worn by British field-officers. If these evidences were insufficient, the end of a military trunk, presented toward the scout, with the name "De Heister" thereon, in German capitals, rendered it quite certain that he held the General of the Hessian forces.

As it soon became evident that no information was obtainable in this quarter, Joe returned to the shadow of the trees as noiselessly as he came. Then he continued his progress, quite confident, from what he had been informed, that the next tent would be that of General Howe. In this he was correct. He soon came in the rear of a pavilion whose size and appearance left him no room for doubt as to the character

* General Dr. Hunter, the commander of the Hessian troops, was a man of great bravery and some literary acquirements. But, he was of a very irate disposition, and was succeeded in command by the following anecdote—which we take from Ulrici (vol. iv. 42)—will illustrate:

of the occupant. A light also shone through this tent, and he could hear low voices conversing within, but a sturdy sentinel stalked up and down in the interval between it and the wood in which he lay concealed. This was a great obstacle. The night was drawing into the hours of morning, and the moments of darkness were incalculably precious to the daring scout; and yet, even if he should succeed in dispatching the sentinel, it was impossible to do so without a scuffle, with imminent danger of alarming the occupants of the tent—which was scarcely a rod away from the beat of the guard. Joe studied his man carefully, and cautiously weighed the opposing chances of success and defeat in his mind. He finally came to the conclusion that the tent must be approached, and that the sentry must die. Having arrived at this determination, he prepared to act upon it immediately. Looking to his knife, he stole upon the guard as closely as practicable, and then rushed upon him out of the darkness like a shadow.

It was a surprise for the Briton, quite complete, and the scout had him by the throat before a word could be uttered. The musket of the guard slipped from his hands, and rolled harmlessly upon the grass. But the fellow was as brave as a lion, and fought desperately, as his only chance. There was a silent, fierce, deadly struggle, but it was brief enough, for the knife did its fatal work quickly.

The dead man lay with his white features upturned to the moon. They were handsome and clear—evidently those of a gallant, generous spirit. A feeling of remorse entered young Wilder's breast as he gazed upon the form which he had robbed of life. He questioned himself. Have I acted a manly part? Was it a fair fight? Perhaps he has a mother, who will miss him at home, or a sister—a sweetheart. But, there was scant time for moralizing. The imminence of his own peril called him to the necessity of immediate action. Hastily dragging the corpse into the woods, he exchanged his heavy Hessian shako for the hat of the sentry, as well as his coat, and then—after concealing the body—hastened back, took up the fallen musket, and began to play sentinel with all his might. Scarcely had this change been effected, when he heard a step behind him, and wheeled quickly with presented

gun. The intruder was General De Heister, on his way to General Howe's tent. Now we must not forget that Joe was unfamiliar with the countersign. "Blenheim," evidently, was for the German outposts, and not for the main camp. That countersign he was yet to learn, and he went at it the right way.

"Who goes there?"

"A friend."

"Advance, and give the countersign."

"Blenheim."

Joe's musket was at his shoulder, with the hammer up, in an instant.

"If you advance another step, you're a dead man!" he exclaimed.

"Pshaw! don't you know me? I was only trying your vigilance," said the officer, with a very slight German accent. "Here's your countersign." And he thereupon whispered "Malmesbury."

"Pass on!" said the sentry, in token of satisfaction; yet not without a tremor in his voice, for he did not know but that the General was "trying him" a second time.

But De Heister evidently was satisfied with his first experiment, for he bowed, and passed on, without another word.

The officer entered the tent and Joe slipped up behind it. Carefully laying aside his musket, he got into the trench, and peeped under the canvas. After some difficulty, he managed to get a fair view of the inside; but, before he did so, he had the satisfaction of hearing De Heister recounting, for the benefit of his fellow-officers, his adventure with their faithful and vigilant sentry, by which he told the Commander-in-Chief say that he would see the fellow duly honored in the morning.

"There's no use resisting fate," thought Joe. "I get promoted wherever I serve—the greater the danger the surer the honors."

He saw three persons in the tent—two of them De Heister. One of them he had seen before in Boston. It was Sir Henry Clinton, the general in command.

It was not easy to find out the special, unusual features, which seemed so youthful, in contrast with the form upon which time and mental toil were making rapid inroads. He still was

the sop, in point of attire, which had prompted the Yankee lampoon, every stanza of which terminated :

“ But, Sir Harry keeps his neckcloth white,
So mention not his deeds;
For white is black and black is white,
But each the contrast needs.”

The other officer, whom the spy had never before seen, he rightly conjectured to be none other than Sir William Howe.* He was a man of greater age than either of his companions, and with a physiognomy indicative of more ability. Likewise full in the face, with that hale ruddiness of cheek and nose which is seldom found in such perfection as in England, there was a piercing keenness in the dark eyes, so deeply set beneath their bushy brows, which bespoke at once a vigilant and valiant soul—although he had frequently been lampooned by the American satirists as a weak man.†

These officers were having an earnest conversation upon their plans and prospects, and although they spoke in that low tone of voice which men naturally assume when consulting

* Lord Viscount George Howe, (the brother of Sir William,) the eldest son of Sir E. Scrope, second Lord Viscount in Ireland, was a man of many noble qualities, and as much cherished in the memories of Americans as his brother was execrated. He arrived at Halifax in the summer of 1757, having under his command five thousand British troops, who had been dispatched from England to assist in the expedition against the French. In the next year he was with Abercrombie at the renowned attack on Ticonderoga, and, at the first fire of the French, who were posted in the woods a short distance westward of the fort, he fell mortally wounded. “In him the soul of the army seemed to expire.” His kindly disposition, bravery, and many virtues endeared him to the soldiers; and Massachusetts, as a “proof of her love and esteem for his gallantry and merit,” erected a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey. At the time of his death he was thirty-three years of age.

† A correspondent, writing to *Brasher's Journal*, in 1777, commented severely upon the British, in what he called a “new catechism,” from which we extract the following:

“ To whom has the British Court committed the conduct of the present war? To Lord and General Howe.

“ Who are these gentlemen? They are the brothers of a Colonel Howe, who fought bravely by the side of the Americans in a former war, and fell in battle; who, by his amiable character, endeared himself to the people so much, that they lamented his fate with unfeigned sorrow, and erected, at their own expense, a costly monument to his memory. But these gentlemen, with unrelenting hearts and satirical minds, have defiled their brother's monument with the boast of those who ambition reared it to his honor, and plunged their master's works into bosoms glowing with love and esteem for their mother's son.”

And again:

“ Who is the soggiest man in the world? Lord Howe.

“ Who is the wretched? General Howe.”

upon affairs which are, at the same time, secret and important, not a single word did the eager hearing of the scout fail to catch and write upon his mind. He was not long in learning that the time decided upon for the attack was the day after the morrow—that is, at daylight on the morning of the 27th of August. Having acquired this and other information of vital importance, the scout dared not tarry longer in his present position. The day was beginning to break, and he yet had a difficult task before him.

However, congratulating himself upon his success thus far, and prone to think that the worst of his perilous mission was accomplished, he left the tent and its occupants undisturbed, and proceeded toward the forest, resolved to make his way into the American lines as fast as possible.

But with all Joe's shrewdness, there was one thing which he had not calculated upon: while he was so busily and—apparently—securely bottling and corking up information from behind General Howe's pavilion, ~~he had been watched~~. And now, scarcely had he entered the wood, before he found himself in an ambuscade of a dozen or more British soldiers, who suddenly arose around him with leveled muskets, like so many phantoms. There was but one chance of escape—and that a slim one—but the desperate man seized it. Springing back from the timber, he ran like a deer across the moonlighted open space toward the marsh, which he knew to be not many rods beyond the tent. If he could reach that quagmire, he was saved; for he knew—and had traversed it often as a boy—a single, narrow, and intricate path, which would soon put him beyond reach of the enemy or the enemy's bullets. Crack! crack! went several guns, before he was a rod away. At first he felt a sharp, scorching pain, like a red-hot iron, graze his cheek. Then he felt a colder, but more penetrating, pain in his left shoulder; and he knew that he was badly wounded. The next moment, the entire pack were upon him, with a shout of triumph; but he turned at bay, and fought with his bayonet like a fiend. The foremost of his assailants went down from the bullet with which his pike was charged, and the next received his bayonet in his breast. But the next moment he was overpowered, covered with wounds, bleeding and prostrate at the very door of General Howe's tent.

They dragged him within, before the officers, and unceremoniously propped him up against the center-post.

"A spy, General," said a sergeant, the leader of the party.

"Where did you discover him?" inquired General Howe.

"At the edge of the thicket, sir. We saw him looking under your tent, and listening to your conversation. A moment after, just as he was making off, we grabbed him. He has fought hard, but here he is."

"Listening at my tent! Is it possible?" ejaculated the officer. "What have you to say to this, fellow?" he continued, turning sharply upon poor Joe.

"The sergeant speaks the truth," said the latter, as cool as a cucumber; for he was sensible enough to perceive that the game was at last up.

"Take the man to the guard-house," said General Howe, quietly. "Guard him well. There is no need of hanging him before daylight."

With these words ringing uncomfortably in his ears, Joe was hustled off.

CHAPTER VI

THE BLUNDERBUSS SPEAKS.

ON the early morning of that luckless day for Joe Wilder, the glimmer of a night-lamp still shone in a chamber of the mansion of Gilbert Whipple. There was no need of its feeble flame, for the day was bright without; but the occupant of the room was fast asleep on a sofa, oblivious of beam or shadow. He must have kept late hours on the preceding night, for he had not troubled himself to cast off his clothing.

Upon a table, in the center of the apartment, were standing some decanters and tumblers—some of the latter broken; and there were other evidences of a departed feast. Whipple must have been enjoying himself with some friends. The room itself was furnished with elegance—even luxuriously. The table, and chairs, and grand old bedstead were of expensive wood and highly carved; the curtains were of heavy

damask; the carpet was deeply tufted and brightly hued. In a word, the apartment was evidently the home of a man of expensive and voluptuous tastes.

At length a negro domestic entered to wake his master. The latter rolled to a sitting posture, and sleepily rubbed his eyes.

"What is it, Meph?"—short for Mephistophilis—growled the waker. "What do you mean by waking me so early?"

"Dere's a gemman down stairs. Been waitin' a long time—awful long time," answered the darkey.

"Gentleman! At this time in the morning? Bah! Well, send him up, whoever he is."

The servant vanished. In a few minutes the door again opened, and our aquatic acquaintance of the leaky boat made his appearance, with a ruffal companion.

"What brings you here?" exclaimed Whipple, angrily. "You can't possibly have accomplished my mission by this time."

"No; you see—you see—the fact is—" stammered the other.

"What! Do you mean to say you didn't go?" in a voice of thunder.

"Yes, that's it, you see. But it warn't my fault, captain. I hadn't more'n fairly got to sea when the all-fredder leak sprung in the yawl you ever see'd this side of a water-pocket. I was fairly kivered in less'n a minute. The way I had to make for the beach was a caution. Then I went down to the quays and tried to hire another craft, but the hour was late, and I couln't. Then I tried to stand out, and almost got my scalp blowed off with a load of buckshot. So, at last, thinks I, I'll just go round to Mr. Whipple's and tell him the whole story."

"But you shud' have taken your cutlass before," growled Whipple. "You told me you had an excellent boat."

"There warn't a better this side of Cape Cod," said the waterman, with retrospective pride. "She could beat any two-oared thing that ever swam the sea. But how on earth is any thing goin' to sell with a hole out in her bottom big enough for you to ram your head through?"

"Cut! Who cut it?"

"Wal, you see, that's guess-work. But there's another chap — him that lives with his mother, up at the skirt of the wood — as *hal* a craft moored near to mine; and I half believe he was the scamp; for he was standin' out in the stream, provisioned for a long v'yage, jist as I left port, and I thought I heerd him snicker when I sprung aleak. The hole was newly cut, and stuffed with grass, so as, jist as soon as I got well out, the stussin' gave way and the salt water flew through higher'n a man's head. Blast him, if I ever get a grab on him, you'll hear more blue murder squealed than you ever heerd this side of the brimstone-pit. I half suspect, besides, that the rascal overheard our conversation in the wood."

"Impossible! His name?"

"Joe Wilder. I thought you know'd him."

"I should think I did," exclaimed the Tory. "And you think it was he? You are probably right. It is another mark against the young rascal."

"So, you see," exclaimed the luckless boatman, "I thought I'd jist come around and get further orders. For I s'pose, considerin' circumstances, we can't run the gal off this night, no how."

"Yes, we will, by heaven! The risk is greater, but it shall be done. Be sure to be on hand at midnight. Buy another boat, if necessary. Here is the money."

Saying this, the Tory counted some money into the boatman's hand.

"Now, remember! Do not fail me!" was his parting injunction.

"Never fear, Mr. Whipple. I'm springy as hickory, and as true as steel." And the man went his way, still muttering vengeance on that "infernal scamp" who had scuttled "the poeticest craft this side of Cape Cod."

Left alone, the Tory paced the room for some moments in profound meditation. He was aroused by the sound of a clear voice singing, across the way, and heard old Van Snooze taking down the shutters from the windows of the Golden Shark. He knew the sweet voice to be Katrina's, and, stepping to the window, threw open the blinds to gaze without.

Katrina was standing on the tavern-steps, her face rosy and

beautiful, in the fresh morning air. She would probably have gone in, if she had been aware of the burning gaze fixed upon her. Long did her admirer remain at the window, but, at length, Katrina being called, the Tory left his position, and, going to the table, drank a small glass of spirits, with a relish. Then, mending his toilette, he descended to his morning meal, at the summons of Mephistopheles, read the day's bulletin, smoked a cigar, and then sauntered over to the Golden Shark, where his horse was kept.

He met the host at the door, and could not help noticing that there was a change in his demeanour. It was no longer the obsequious salutation of "Good morning, Mr. Vipple," but merely a surly straightening up of the back. Nevertheless, the Tory fancied he could afford to despise the moods of old Gotlieb, and, perceiving Katrina in the bar-room, he entered, and, as usual, ordered the old man to have his horse got ready.

Gotlieb cast a suspicious glance at him as he left the room, but said nothing. Now, Gilbert Whipple had drunk a great deal of wine on the previous night. He still felt the fumes of the goblet in his veins, and was, perhaps, a trifle less prudent and deferential than was his custom. No sooner had Gotlieb departed than he drew the shrinking form of Katrina to him and gave her a kiss. The maiden again struggled away from him, and the cavalier received a sound box on the ear for his pains.

"Don't be a prude, my little friend!" he exclaimed, angrily. "You may learn to treat me more civilly, by and-by."

"She's one lady, Mr. Vipple," said old Gotlieb, entering the room—for he had not gone to the stable, but had heard and seen what had passed. "She's not a prude, Mr. Vipple, but von innocent child. Vat you makes so much? Vat you think, ven you makes believe you wants me to get your horse, dat you may snatch von kiss from mine little girl?"

"Pooh!" said Whipple; "is a kiss more or less, particularly from one as old as I, going to harm Katrina?"

"Naw," exclaimed the old man, angrily. "But, vat you makes? dat's vat I want to know: vat for you makes less to my Katrina, eh?"

"Have a care what you say, you old fool," said the Tory,

haughtily. "The girl should be proud to have a gentleman salute her, as I have done."

"Look you, Mr. Vipple, I wants to show you something," said the old man, more quietly than before.

With that he took down the old blunderbuss from the wall and carefully examined the priming.

"Oh, father! what are you going to do?" exclaimed Katrina, surprised and terrified.

"Nutting to hurt any von, my child. I jist wants to show de shentleman somedings. Oblige me, Mr. Vipple, by stepping to dis window for von moment," said Gotlieb, addressing his last sentence to the visitor.

The latter, with a smile at the cumbrous weapon, complied with the request, when Gotlieb pointed through the open window to a plain board fence at the back of the yard, at twenty or thirty steps from their position.

"You sees dat leetle plack spot in de middle of de vence, Mr. Vipple?"

"Yes," said the Tory, still eyeing the wide-mouthed blunderbuss with humorous scorn.

"Vell, jist you watch him von moment," said Gotlieb, using both hands to draw back the rusty hammer of the weapon, and bringing the butt to his shoulder with a martial air.

Down came the hammer, and bang went the crazy weapon, almost knocking the stout marksman off his pins by the vigor of its recoil. The sound of the bullets striking the fence somewhat resembled the emptying of a cartload of coarse gravel down a coarse sieve. When the smoke cleared away, the fence appeared as if perforated by a cannon-load of grape-shot.

"How many slugs were there in that blunderbuss?" exclaimed Whipple, in astonishment.

"Von quart, prezactly," was the cool rejoinder of the landlord of the Golden Shark; and he proceeded to reload the piece. "I jist wanted to show you, Mr. Vipple, vot de ole gun could do, you know. I keeps her onder mine pillow, every night. I wish you von very good-morning, Mr. Vipple. And I beliefs I don't vant to keep your horse any mere times. Good-morning, Mr. Vipple," continued Gotlieb; and the gentleman left the room, as he was requested.

Then Gotlieb finished reloading his gun, and returned it to its place on the wall; after which he walked calmly to the door, and exhibited himself on the stoop, very complacently; for he was well satisfied with himself.

As for little Katrina, she sat down in a corner and shed a few tears, no doubt thinking that the lot of a landlord's daughter was a very miserable one.

CHAPTER VII.

GUY MADDEN'S MISSION.

THERE is still another episode in the drift of our main story, of which it is necessary to treat before resuming the unravelling of Joe Wilder's fate, and that episode is occasioned by the visit of the gay Guy Madden to New York.

The naval officer had on this object than more good fellowship for his Tory friend when he accompanied the latter in his return from the princely mansion of Delaney to the southern extremity of the island. He was within the American lines for a purpose similar to that which brought the luckless Joe Wilder into those of the British.

In furtherance of his scheme, the young officer, after having passed the night at Whipple's, left his boat in the deep slumber wherein we found him in our last chapter, and wandered through the streets of the town, which he was enabled to do in safety, under the disguise which he now wore. Nevertheless, his mission was not untroubled with danger.

Suspicion might be aroused at any moment, and he could give but a poor account of himself if arrested. But he was hardy and brave, and was willing to take the consequences.

It was a market-day, and young Madden strayed through the thoroughfares, listening in a careless way to all conversation touching upon the war, and now and then joining in where he could do so without exciting suspicion. He also moved along State street, and halted with some curiosity at the building used as the American head-quarters. The desire to

enter was strong, but prudence forbade. As he stood surveying the building, an officer threw open one of the upper windows, and gazed out upon the bay. Madden never before had seen this officer, but he unconsciously put his hand to his cap and saluted him with profound respect. The salute was acknowledged and returned with equal politeness.

"My friend," said Madden to a soldier, who was strolling past him, "will you be kind enough to tell me the name of the officer who appeared at that window a moment ago?"

The soldier looked at his interrogator in surprise.

"You must have come from far, not to know that officer," said he.

"I have just come from far in the interior," returned Madden. "I was struck with the noble appearance of the officer in question, and am curious to know his name."

"The person you inquire of is General George Washington," replied the soldier, passing down the street, as he spoke.

Madden had with difficulty suppressed an exclamation of surprise. Now he eyed the building with renewed curiosity. The window still was open, and the form of the General now and then came into view as he paced the interior of the apartment.

As Guy gazed upon that noble form, a dark thought entered his breast. Almost unconsciously, he put his hand into the bosom of his vest until it encountered the cold butt of a concealed pistol.

"I am a dead shot," he said to himself. "Before me, within easy range, is the ablest leader of my country's foes. I might shoot him dead, this instant."

Based with such reflections as these, the young Briton paced up and down before the building, ever and anon casting a glance at the object of his thoughts. But a nobler instinct soon appeared in the expression of his features; he reluctantly thrust back the weapon, which he had partially drawn from its concealment, cast one more glance of admiration at the commanding figure of the American chieftain, and strode away.

Having obtained all the intelligence he could by frequenting the taverns and markets, and gossiping when he obtained a chance, Madden found himself about noon in the vicinity of

the Golden Shalk tavern, and entered the tap-room to procure refreshment.

"What a different man from Mr. Whipple is this polite gentleman," thought little Katrina, as she served the stranger with the beer and cheese which he had ordered.

Old Gotlieb was sitting in his easy-chair, looking exceedingly complacent and happy—for hardly an hour had elapsed since he had given Gilbert Whipple the specimen of his marksmanship.

"Have you any fresh war news this morning, friend?" asked Madden.

The manner of the stranger was insinuating and pleasant, and Gotlieb condescended to be loquacious. After he had talked with Madden for about ten minutes, it seemed to him as if he had been pummeled completely dry.

"You have a handsome sign for your tavern," said Madden, when it became tolerably evident that Gotlieb's stock of information was completely exhausted. "Might I inquire if there is any legend connected with the origin of your emblem?"

"A very wonderful story," said the landlord, eyeing the gilded monster of the sign-post with a pleased complacency.

"Oh, father, do tell it to the gentleman," said Katrina. "I am sure he will be pleased to hear it."

"I shall be most happy to hear the legend," said Madden, smiling. "Suppose we have some more beer, to make the thing more social."

So Katrina brought them some more beer, and, when she had resumed her seat, her father continued.

THE LEGEND OF THE GOLDEN SHALK.

"In de virst place," said he, "I will call your attention to de splendid goot with you—sustained from de vall. Dat ploonderpus ish er'd he milt years old. Siz belonged to mine forefader, who was an admiral in de Dutch navy, and was a very good man. He was, like siz, a very brave man, indeed. He percht dat ploonderpus in Amsterdam, von he was a young feller, shal' tell her, and fought proudly for de Prince of Orange. Afterwards, von he went into de navy, as von best mi' skipper, he don't like goon mit him, and always kept her over her his p'lar, von he had von, and under his

pare head ven he didn't got no piller. Vell, he vos such a goot man, and such a prave seller, dat dey makes him von admiral, and he wears a great teal of gold on his hat and coat, and takes von coat-of-arms, vich vas very nice, only he didn't know vat vas de best ting to put on it. So he says: 'Wait till I do someting prave on de sea, and den I vill put on de coat-of-arms.' So, von day, ven he vas mit his ship on von long voyage, avay off in der Pacific Ocean, a seller in de stern sung out: 'Mine Got, admiral, come and see vat a shark dere is onder de stern!' So, de admiral he runs out dere, and shoost so soon as he gets dere, de seller vat sung out, he tumples over de board; and der admiral he sees von enormous shark, just de coior of gold, vich immediately swallers up der seller, like von piece of pork and peans. 'Lower der poat!' cried der admiral; 'lower der poat, and fight mit der shark!' So, von whole lot of men and poys shumps in der poat and rows out to der shark, vich jist rolls over on der back and swallers der whole compoodle, without so much as having der stomach-ache. Den der admiral, in von great rage, pulls off mit his coat and his shoes, and grab's his sword mit his teet, and joomps overpoard. Der shark makes at him, but he swims around so sbry, dat de beast couldn't pite him von pit; ven at last, he sees his shance, und dives onder der shark, and, mit von plow, rips open der shark's belly, so dat der poat and der first seller all tumples out into der water, alive and kickin'. But, you see, dey all tumples out oopsile down, because der shark had swallered dem py turning on his pack, and der admiral, he lets 'em out py tipping open de beast's stomach. Vell, dey all gets on poard der ship, once more, but der yeller shark, he goes down to der bottom. Den der admiral he swears von pig oat, and he says: 'Py my life, I vill put der golden shark on mine scootchen, ven I gets home once more!' And so he did. And dere's vere mine shark and mine ploonderpuss comes from. Der story is all true, every word of it, mitout doubt!"

"He would be incredulous, indeed, who would doubt it?" cried the stranger, laughing merrily at the recital, the old man's solemn manner in telling it adding considerably to its humor.

A soldier now entered the tap-room and called for some

beer. Madden was surprised and uneasy to recognize in him the same man whom he had questioned in regard to General Washington. His uneasiness was not diminished when he remarked that the soldier was studying him very closely, nor when the former, after paying for his beer, immediately departed with a hasty step.

As soon as he was gone, Madden turned to the landlord, and asked, in a pretended carelessness of voice, if he had horses for sale. Receiving a reply in the affirmative, he requested to be shown to the stables, which was done forthwith.

"How much is this beast—the money to be paid in golden guineas?" he asked, singling out the best animal from among a half-dozen.

"Forty guineas," said Gotlieb, driving a hard bargain—for the horse was dear at twenty.

"I will take him," said Madden. "What is the price of this saddle, and other gear?"

"Ten guineas," said Gotlieb.

"Have the beast saddled immediately, and here is your money."

The horse came, and, in a few moments, the sailor was mounted, and riding up Broadway at a capless pace. He felt a strong inclination to set off at the utmost speed, but thought it best to be governed by prudence.

"Pshaw!" he muttered upon perceiving that he was not pursued; "I might have spared time to go over the way to Whipple's stable after the soldier might have been Delaney's last night. No, I will not be cautious, for now, upon looking back, he perceived a crowd of a dozen or so of American troopers issuing from Second street into Broadway.

He still, however, kept a halting pace, until, convinced that he was to be pursued, he struck his spurs deep, and drove along at a wild pace.

The road to Harlem at that period—er, at least, one of the roads to that point—branched off from Broadway in a north-easterly direction, running along Canal street and turning into the present Third avenue, when it was a pretty straight stretch all the way to Harlem.

The Briton passed his sword into this form at a mail call-p, throwing a glance toward as he did so, and then, by jerking

that the interval between him and his pursuers could be little more than a quarter of a mile.

He now looked attentively at the animal he bestrode, surveying with minute scrutiny. He was a fine beast, evidently of the old English hunter stock, was fully fifteen and a half hands high, and ran with ease and confidence.

"I am fortunate in my horse, at least," thought Madden.

But the men behind him evidently were as well mounted as he, and he pressed his beast forward to the utmost.

There was satisfaction in the thought that the distance between him and his pursuers was not lessened. The air rushed through his hair, as he drove against the wind, and the market gardens and orchards on either side of the road seemed to fly past him.

As he wheeled into the straight road (now Third avenue), one of his pursuers discharged a carbine. The young officer only laughed defiance, as he heard the slug whistle far above his head. But the report of that gun had more meaning than to wing a bullet. It was fired to attract the attention of three cavalrymen riding a short distance in front of the hunted man. Madden soon was alarmed to perceive that their attention was arrested.

In fact, they turned, and stood abreast across the road, to bar his way.

The young Briton was brave and hardy, and was not unarmed. Clutching his pistol with his left hand, and a concealed hanger, or short sword, with his right, he dropped the rein on his courser's neck, guiding him by the pressure of his knees as well as he could, and resolved to sell his life as dearly as possible.

They awaited him with drawn sabers, but his rush was irresistible. One of the Americans was unhorsed by the shock, another fell beneath the unerring bullet of his pistol, and, after a severe but brief hand-to-hand fight, the third was disabled in the sword-arm, and called for quarter.

"Take it!" cried Guy Madden, and he again sped on his way—bleeding from a slight wound which he had received in the temple.

His blood was up, for he felt the nervous thrill of victory, but, when he next looked behind, he found that the imminent

interval between the blow and capture was lessened by fully one half—owing to the few minutes which he had been delayed in the combat—and he was also alarmed to perceive that his steel had suffered considerably in the shock, for he was breaking heavily, and a large crenel was visible on the left breast. Although the animal, true to his courageous breed, would not succumb, it was doubtful if he would be able to maintain the necessary pace so far as Harlem. The young man spoke soothingly to the noble brute, and, taking some of his own blood in his hand, poured it forward over the pommel of the saddle, rubbing the warm fluid into the foaming lips and laboring nostrils. This last measure seemed to have an invigorating effect. The necessary speed was maintained, until the church-spires of the village of Harlem came in sight.

The pursuing troopers now commenced firing as they rode, and the range was short. Twice did Mullin feel that stinging, mortal anguish—never to be forgotten when once experienced—which tells the sufferer that he is heavier than before by half an ounce of lead. But they were not mortal wounds, and the fugitive passed it onward without a cry.

"If I can reach the river, the cold plunge will revive the brute, at least enough to swim me over, when I have a fair chance to reach Delaney's for a hiding-place."

These were the扶助 only hopeful reflections of the midshipman, as he swept into the by-road, which turned a little to the left—leaving the village on the right—and which he knew would strike the Hudson river, nearly opposite Delaney's, where a rift in the high bank would help him to reach the water.

The Americans were close behind. They had ceased firing, and now galloped forward with confidence, for they had passed the blood of their dying victim, in the white dust of the road.

But, he was strong with the hope of youth, and had plenty of vigor in him yet. With a short start from the water's edge, however, his horse staggered heavily, and seemed on the point of falling. Mullin put his spurs to the animal's ear, and spoke in trembling tones to him. The noble creature uttered a shrill neigh of alarm and pain, and pranced forward.

The river was crossed, and in they plunged, with a great splash. The animal turned suddenly, and galloped away, and

he struck out for the opposite shore, with the vim of a strong swimmer.

Madden heard his pursuers dash in after him, but did not turn his head.

"The splash will, at least, dampen their infernal carbines," he muttered to himself.

It was a novel and exciting scene, this race for life upon the broad river. The troopers' steeds evidently understood aquatics also, and pushed forward ambitiously.

The shore, on the northern side, as we have already described it, was rocky and precipitous. There was, however, one place where the steep bank did not go sheer into the waves, but presented at its feet a little cove of yellow sand, barely a dozen yards broad. This was a poor landing, but the best.

Madden guided his steed toward it, and after very hard swimming, gained it. His horse reached the hard sand, staggered up the beach a few paces, and fell down dead. Throwing one glance of profound admiration upon the creature which had borne him so nobly, the young man sprang into the forest and began to climb the steep bank, though very faint from loss of blood, and suffering many pangs from his wounds.

He heard the troopers land at the same place, leave their horses, and follow him through the woods and up the rocks. He rebuked his exertions, but they were evidently pressing upon him. At length the longed-for goal was in sight, and he staggered into the open space wherein the Terry Dalton had concealed his princely mansion.

But the troopers were at his very heels; in his excited imagination he thought he could feel their panting breath. Faint, despairing, but courageous still, he turned at bay, almost at the door-step of the mansion, and struck out with his sabres with his last vigor. But a dozen swords were at his head, and he fell in the midst of his foes, covered with wounds, and his eyeballs glazing in death.

The troopers had finished their mission, and knew their work, looking upon their victim with that admiration which the brave accord to the brave.

The horses were by this time fatigued, and Dalton sprang upon the steep with his guests. Then they were all standing by a

piercing shriek, and the form of the lady, whom we have mentioned as Miss Wainwright, rushed willy to the side of the dying man.

"Guy! Guy! you are not dying? Speak to me! speak to me, Guy?" she exclaimed, in agonizing accents, as she drooped above her bleeding friend.

Madden passed his hand across his eyes, and partially raised himself by the support of her arm.

"Helen! Helen!" he groaned, huskily; "my own Helen! tell me that you love me, for my time is brief!"

"I do! I do, with all my heart, Guy! Oh, God, he is dying!"

The young man put up his lips faintly, and they were bright with a happy smile, as she clasped and kissed them with passionate fervor. But she could not recall with her kisses the fleeting breath; the head of the sufferer dropped back, the jaw fell, and Guy Madden was no more.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON THE WATCH.

There were few earlier risers in Germantown, in the year 1776, than General Washington. On the same morning on which Gilbert Whipple had been enabled, by the descriptive efficiency of the Golden Shovel's description, the Commander-in-Chief was pacing the floor of that chamber in which Joe Weller made his personal appearance. Every now and then he would glance out of the window across the bay; and to those who were familiar with the usual countenance which characterized his deportment, the General, upon this morning, might have appeared a trifle anaemic and out of sorts. The fact is, it was owing to his son's sake of Joe. Not a doubt of the sincerity of the effort in the General's mind. He was too good a ruler of men to apprehend that he had mistaken young Weller. But, he knew the danger with which the mission was attended. His kind heart was full of foreboding

for the lad's fate. Could it have been other than the general sweetness of soul which this great, good man combined in his character, with firmness, justice, and integrity, that so endeared him to his fellow-citizens? For we do not always *love* our great men. We admire, very often, with little sympathy. There are comparatively few men whose memories touch our hearts as keenly as they touch our understanding.

General Sullivan had been notified of the departure of the scout, with orders to send a dispatch to head-quarters, the moment he reached the American lines on Long Island, announcing the fact. But time wore on, and the General's patience becoming exhausted, he prepared to cross over to Sullivan's head-quarters, in hopes of learning something which would relieve him of his anxiety.

The American works, constructed by General Greene—the predecessor of Sullivan—extended across a narrow peninsula, having the East river on the left, a marsh running to the shore on the right, with the bay and Governor's Island in the rear. General Sullivan was encamped, with a strong force, at Brooklyn, within these works, a few miles from Utrecht. From the eastern side of the Narrows extends a ridge of hills, for about six miles, covered with a thick wood, and terminating near Jamaica. Through these hills are only three passes: one near the Narrows; a second on the Flatbush road; and a third called the Bedford road, running across from Bedford to Flatbush, which lies on the southern side of the ridge. These passes are very narrow—the sides exceedingly steep and rugged—so as to be maintained by a small number against any force whatever, until dislodged from the heights. These were the only roads which led from the southern side of the hills to the American lines, except one, passing round the east extremity of the ridge to Jamaica.

At the moment of which we write, the American army—about twenty thousand men—was in daily expectation of an attack. Its camp formed a vast crescent, with the bay of the horn confronting the enemy.

As General Washington rode through the lines of the victorious troops, after a hearty welcome had been given him; he, like all; rapidly, and with a single number of his men, and made no pause until the tent of General Sullivan

was reached. It was in striking contrast to the pretentious pavilion of the British commander, being simply a plain four walls of canvas, the central pole running high above the roof, with the American ensign flaunting from it in the breeze.

General Sullivan was not within. Only a staff-officer welcomed the Commander-in-Chief as he entered. Washington had scarcely drawn off his gloves before Sullivan arrived.

A few words upon the situation of affairs, and the superior inquired if the scout had appeared.

"I am afraid he is taken," he muttered, upon receiving an answer in the negative; and he took up that reflective, pensive pace of the apartment which was customary with him upon being harassed with thought.

General Sullivan could give little encouragement to less gloomy conjectures; for he himself felt that the capture of the scout was more than probable. A passing description of the active commander of the American army may not here be out of place. General Sullivan was a man of strikingly plain and unpretentious mien. He looked like a man for deeds rather than show. Every thing about him gave this impression. The sword at his side was heavy and plain, and the scabbard somewhat rusty; but, it looked that, if the blade should issue from the sheath, it would do more than glitter in the sunshine. His frame was firmly-knit and muscular; and there appeared, at the first glance, more of sternness than kindness in his large, strong face. This, in fact, was the character of the man. A strict disciplinarian and a hard fighter, he relied more upon winning the confidence of his troops by startling deeds than in exciting their affections in softer ways.

It will be remembered that the command of the works on Long Island had been given to General Greene. This officer, whose infatuated and rash spirit led him to incur a greater degree of risk and exposure than prudence would justify, became, at length, so seriously ill, that he was compelled to relinquish the command. He was succeeded by General Sullivan. It was a critical moment, and the danger of exchanging an officer—good at all times, on the eve of battle—was, in this case, much more dangerous, from the character of the two Generals. The former was extremely cautious—

ever on the watch—and never losing his self-command; the latter was a brave and excellent officer, but rather too adventurous and too confident for the command of such a post, where every thing depended on defense. One would have succeeded best in attacking, and the other in sustaining an attack.

There were some moments of profound silence—only broken by the regular footfalls of the Commander-in-Chief as he continued his restless pacing. Sullivan was not willing to break in upon the General's thoughts, and therefore fell to studying some charts upon the table, with the officer of his staff.

In a few moments, however, an orderly entered the tent, and said something to the General in a low voice. The latter, thereupon, immediately got up and spoke to his superior.

"A deserter has just arrived in our lines, General. Shall I have him brought in here?"

"Yes," said General Washington. "We may be able to learn something of our scout," he added, after a pause, then resuming his walk.

General Washington took a seat and eyed the man closely as he entered. The deserter had entered the tent with much confidence of demeanor; but, his eyes unconsciously fell when they confronted the calm dignity of the American commander. The fatigue dress of the British regulation, in which the deserter was attired, was somewhat ragged and stained. He had a large scar on his cheek, and was otherwise rather unprepossessing upon a first acquaintance.

The General's anxiety upon young Wilder's account prompted his first question to the deserter.

"I am told that you bring us information," said he. "Tell me, first, if any one was captured within your lines, last night or early this morning?"

"Yes, sir."

"Who was it?"

"A spy, who gave his name as Joseph Wilder."

The General put up his hand to his brow, as if upon a careless impulse; but General Sullivan, who was sitting at his side, saw that the hand was raised to conceal a momentary expression of pain.

"What is to be done with the spy?" resumed the General.

"He will be hung at the boom of the sunken gun."

"When taken, did he reveal any thing further than his name?"

"No, sir. He was taken while listening to a council of war, which was going on in General Howe's tent. He boldly acknowledged that he was a spy, when he saw that there was no use in denying it—gave his name; but General Howe threatened to hang him at noon, instead of at sunset, unless he told who sent him and the nature of his mission, and the fellow laughed in his face—merely saying that he would sooner die at noon than any other time, if it would benefit his country's cause."

"Noble fellow!"

Again General Washington's broad hand went up before his face in that seemingly careless way, and again there was a moment of silence.

"You seem to be well posted about this affair, for a mere private," resumed the commander, fixing a keen gaze upon the deserter's face.

"I was not a private, sir," was the reply, "but an orderly to General Clinton. You can see where the chevron was sewed on my sleeve," he continued, pointing to the sleeve of his coat. "I cut off the emblems before I started to desert to your lines."

"You appear to be truthful thus far, at least. If you are informed of all the details of the spy's capture, let me have them. It seems, then, that he succeeded in stealing through your lines to General Howe's tent?"

"Stealing through them?" exclaimed the deserter, with the emphasis with which we admire a desperate deed. "Steal through them?" he repeated. "Why, by heaven, sir, I would almost say that he walked through them to the commander's pavilion. He literally hewed his way to the heart of the army. It was a glorious deal, if I say it myself! The spy was not particularly reserved upon this point, and I can give you something of his mode of action, sir." And he did so, giving a very minute and circumstantial account of Willer's wonderful achievement.

The deserter ended his narrative; and Washington resumed his former thoughtful walk, for he was surely troubled at the impending fate of the brave man, who had almost wes

his promised commission by such matchless valor. There seemed to be little hope that he could be saved. At length, the General paused suddenly, and threw a keen glance at the deserter. He then resumed his seat, and again the man's eyes fell, for there was suspicion in the General's gaze.

"I wish to ask a few more questions of you," said the commander. "In the first place, why do you desert to our lines? I perceive that you are a born Briton."

The man seemed somewhat confused; but answered quite readily:

"Yes, sir, I am an Englishman, but—the fact is, I'm tired of things over there. They don't treat me right; and I thought I would try your side."

"I do not like deserters, in *any* garb," said the General, quietly. "You must give a better reason than that for your defection."

The man was more confused than before. He felt the General's eyes upon him, and they seemed to burn like fire.

"I don't know of any better reason," he stammered. "Seems to me that's a good enough one."

"No, it is not," exclaimed the General, his voice rising shriller and sharper as he spoke. "You keep your hand over your left-hand pocket more than is natural. What have you got there? You have a paper. Let me see it."

"I haven't any paper," said the other, sullenly.

The commander coolly put his hand in the "deserter's" pocket, and drew forth a scrap of paper, upon which was written—and the ink was not old:

"Pass Private Grimsby (the bearer.)

"(Signed,) HENRY CLINTON,
General Commanding.

"By GEORGE ABERCROMBIE, A. A. G."

"When was this pass given you?" questioned the General, in a stern voice.

"Yesterday morning."

"You lie, sir."

The deserter shrank back and trembled visibly.

"You received this pass *this morning*," continued the old man. "You are a spy, sent into our lines by Sir Henry Clinton."

The "deserter" flung himself on his knees. His confidence and hardihood melted like snow before the mighty will by which he was confronted, and he made a confession of the truth.

General Washington turned to General Sullivan, and said:

"General, you will be kind enough to put this man under guard, and have made the necessary preparations to hang him at the boom of the sunset gun, unless private Willer, now in the hands of the enemy, shall have his sentence revoked. In the mean time, dispatch a flag of truce to General Howe, with a message to this effect. I will wait here for the answer."

These explicit orders were promptly obeyed. As the spy was being led away, he turned once more, and fell upon his knees before the Commander-in-Chief, and begged for his life. But Washington was implacable.

"I abhor this practice of hanging spies as much as any man in America," he said. "But, if General Howe persists in inaugurating it, I must and will retaliate. Prisoner, follow your guard." And the spy was, forthwith, conducted away.

CHAPTER IX

THE GALLOWS-TREE.

THE most solemn of all penances is that of a public execution. Inexpressibly solemn and impressive is such an occasion in a large army. Every detail of preparation, even the smallest, is of painful, momentous interest.

It soon became known through the American camp that a spy was to be hung at sunset, and the few bachelors of the busy camp were soon gathered about the tree which was undergoing a conversion into a gallows; and speculation was everywhere busy with the prisoner. His character, crime, personal appearance, were all discussed with that morbid garrulity which prevails in a camp of such numbers.

Meantime, the flag of truce had been duly sent to the

British camp—which was but a few miles distant—and General Washington was anxiously awaiting the result in General Sullivan's tent.

No one could be more painfully impressed with the duty which had suddenly devolved upon him, of depriving a fellow creature of life by the hangman's noose, than Washington. Although he is said to have had a "great antipathy to spies," he used them himself, and his nature revolted from the barbarous practice—then and still in vogue—of putting them to death.

But, humane and noble as he was, he felt it to be his bounden duty to protect, as much as possible, his own scouts, by a rigid rule of retaliation.

Not quite two hours had elapsed when the flag of truce returned with a notification that the Yankee scout would meet his fate at sunset, in spite of whatever retaliation the American commander might see fit to institute. Accompanying this intelligence, was a brief note from General Howe, informing General Washington that it was not so much the fact of Willer being a spy, as it was the bloody career, which had led him into the British lines, for which he was condemned to death. The note then briefly recited the number of Joe's victims, and closed with a protest against retaliation upon the British spy. General Washington merely sent back word renewing his threat of retaliation; and then returned to New York—first promising to return before sundown; for he was determined to witness the execution in case Joe's fate was not averted.

Half an hour before the appointed time, every thing was in preparation for the execution. Two battalions of Maryland troops were ordered to march to the scene, and all who were off duty were there before them. With a firm and solemn step, the two columns came slowly up, and surrounded the gallows-tree, to the mournful tap of the muffled drum. The gallows was formed out of a great oak tree. The branches were lopped off to within thirty feet from the ground. A large, straight limb at that height had already dangling from it the rope with the fatal noose at the end. And, just beneath this branch, the rough but substantial scaffold was erected, trap-door, supporting posts, and every thing complete.

A deep silence pervaded the large concourse while the troops were forming in the hollow square around the scaffold —now and then slightly broken by a low hum as some General or other dignitary made his appearance upon the ground; for the Commander-in-Chief was determined to render the scene as public as possible. An execution within the American lines was a rare occurrence at that period. The system of retaliation was a grave subject, and it was as well, perhaps, that a scene like this should be rendered exceedingly impressive. Many civilians were present. Colonel Atlee and Colonel Smallwood were visible near the left of the platform; Colonel Hatch and the relatable Colonel Miles were to be seen on the right, and, not far from the latter's position, was the noble figure of Lord Stirling, with his staff around him. Few men in the Continental army were more respected than Lord Stirling. Yet he was a man whose many noble qualities were considerably marred by unaccountable prejudices. He, however, always remained professedly against the tempting offers with which the Royal authorities frequently endeavored to seduce him from his allegiance to the cause of liberty. He was somewhat notorious for his indignation at the British employment of foreign mercenaries, and at their endeavors to induce the slaves of the Americans to fight against their masters.

"The Hessians plunder all indiscriminately, Tories as well as Whigs"—says the *French Journal*, of October 29th, 1776—"If they see anything they want, they seize it, and say, 'Rebel gool for Hess man.' A Tory complained to General Howe that he was plundered by the Hessians. The General said he could not help it—it was their way of making war. So the friends of the [English] Government are protected. Lord Dunmore told Lord Stirling he was sorry he kept such company. His Lordship replied: 'My Lord, I kept wider company than your Lordship has of late.' This last sentence alluded to Lord Dunmore's calling Virginia negroes to fight against their masters.

The throngs continued to increase about the scaffold as the hour drew nigh. Presently there was a short hum through the crowd, and, shortly afterward, the commanding figure of the General-in-Chief, attended by numerous staff officers,

appeared upon the scene slowly riding through the throng to a little eminence, near Lord Stirling's position.

Shortly afterward the beat of the muffled drum was again heard. It was from the guard who were escorting the prisoner to the scaffold. He walked bareheaded in the square which they formed around him. When they reached the foot of the scaffold, the soldiers filed off and stood on each side of the steps, with their muskets at "present arms." The prisoner was attended by Captain Harker, of the Third Virginia Riflemen, and also by the chaplain of the same regiment. He declined their assistance, and mounted the scaffold unaided, with a firm, dignified step. He was in his shirt-sleeves. His throat was bare as well as his head. He seemed to mount with a fearless heart. He was a handsome fellow, on the whole, tall, brawny and well-featured, and appeared far more prepossessing than when he stood in the commander's tent in the character of a British spy.

Some pious persons shudder at that expression, "he died game;" but, most of us have an unconscious admiration when we hear of it. For there is, after all, something exalting in this facing of the grim Destroyer with a fearless heart.

The Briton took his position on the platform with folded arms. He saw the executioner go beneath, in order to be ready with the bolt which upheld the trap-door, but he exhibited no sign of emotion. Upon being asked if he had anything to say, he simply shook his head and was silent.

The sun was sinking in the west, through a glory of purple and gold. In a few minutes the burning disk would disappear, the signal cannon would boom, and, in all probability, the soul of the prisoner would be launched into eternity. It was a glorious August evening. The entire occident was a sea of golden fire. And the half-moon, which was also sleeping toward the western hills, was half extinguished in the burning billows of light which the dying day-god emitted as he rolled to rest. The world was bright and blooming; and the silence which fell upon it—upon the hills, the meadows, the woods, and the glistening waters of the neighboring bay, was impressively solemn and beautiful. It may be that a sense of horror crept into the heart of the poor prisoner as he surveyed this glorious scene, which he was soon to quit.

forever; but, not a tear or tremor of the lip betrayed the emotion, if it was experienced.

The silence grew deeper as the moments flew.

At length the signal came—the long, deep boom of the sunset gun, and there was a stir through the crowd. The prisoner started at the sound of the signal, but he quickly recovered his composure, and remained as impulsive as before.

Captain Harker and the Chapman stepped forward and conducted him upon the fatal trap. The white cap was placed upon his head, drawn over his eyes, his arms pinioned, and the noose quickly adjusted about his throat. The executioner—a man obtained from one of the Connecticut regiments in a choice by lot—stood ready beneath. In another instant Captain Harker would have given the signal; but now a horseman was seen galloping toward them, shouting vociferously and waving a white handkerchief; and a sign from General Sullivan caused the fatal signal to be deferred.

Great excitement was manifested by the assembly as the rider made his way through their ranks to General Washington.

"What is it?" asked the latter, in hasty tones, for he sympathized with the dreadful suspense of the delay upon the mind of the prisoner.

"Wilder is saved," gasped the horseman. "He has just escaped into our lines, General."

"Then the execution must proceed," said Washington, and he made a sign to General Sullivan to that effect.

Sullivan hesitated. Lord Stirling spurred quickly to the side of the General-in-Chief, and spoke some earnest words. General Sullivan and Colonel Morris followed—all pleading for the man's life. Washington looked. An expression of pain came across his face, which was rendered still by a thoughtful composure. In a moment his decision was formed. His pity triumphed, and he ordered the prisoner to be returned to prison, there to await further orders.

The spy received this intimation with as much bravery and composure as he had exhibited hitherto. He was conducted from the scaffold, and passed away in silence.

But the crowd did not despatch him. Harkly, for a group was observed approaching, supporting the form of the young patriot, Joe Wilder.

A long, wild, joyous shout, in which even the General officers heartily joined, greeted the return of the valiant scout. Joe was hardly recognizable. His clothes were in tatters, and, in many places, red and dark with the blood from his many wounds. His face was emaciated and as white as snow. His left arm was in a sling; and he limped painfully as he quitted the support of his companions and staggered toward the Commander-in-Chief. But his strength failed him, and he swooned quite away, prostrate, at the white charger's feet.

General Washington hastily dismounted, and caught the poor fellow by the hand. His lip trembled as he did so. General Sullivan also dismounted by the side of the unconscious scout.

"General," said the Commander-in-Chief, "have the brave fellow taken to your own tent. And Doctor Whitaker"—turning to the chief surgeon—"pray accompany them and attend to his wounds yourself."

These orders were promptly obeyed. Joe was carefully lifted and conveyed to the comfortable tent of General Sullivan, where he was soon restored to comparative ease, and his wounds—none of them very serious—skillfully attended to by the surgeon-general.

As the scout was borne through the throngs of soldiers, cheer upon cheer arose around him; for the story of his desperate adventures had by this time been made known to the entire army.

About nine o'clock of that evening, Joe awoke from a refreshing slumber. Shortly afterward Generals Washington and Sullivan were by his side, and as he told them the result of the conference in General Howe's tent, he had the satisfaction to perceive, by the eager attention which it excited, the vital importance of that information which had so nearly cost him his life.

"Now, rest again, my brave fellow," said the Commander-in-Chief, when the brief recital was finished. "We have already heard of your wonderful adventures and your splendid courage. The whole army thanks you for it."

"But my commission, General, have I won my commission?" asked the young man, eager, even in his suffering, for the prize.

"Fairly, nobly!" was the hearty reply. "Your information is of incalculable value. You shall be upon my own staff, with the rank of captain. I will do more. I will recommend you to Congress for a brevet-major."

Too happy to speak, Joe pressed the hand of the generous chieftain, and was silent for some moments.

Then, suddenly recollecting the danger in which his beloved Katrina was left, he started up in affright, and would have risen from the couch, had he not been restrained. He hastily recounted what was overheard in the wood, between Whipple and his minion.

A dark shade passed over the General's benevolent face as he obtained this convincing proof of the treachery of a man whom he had long suspected. Assuring the anxious lover that the plot should be duly frustrated, he left the tent, accompanied by Sullivan; and Joe, left alone, and much easier in his mind, again fell into a quiet slumber.

CHAPTER X.

NOW JOE DID IT.

JOE WILDER was ready with his pen, and it was his custom to keep a regular diary of his adventures throughout the war. In that diary we find a very interesting and detailed account of his escape from the hands of the British; and, as we must, sooner or later, satisfy the curious reader upon that point, we might as well tell it at once, and in Joe's own language.

"At first I despaired completely," says he in his journal, when I found myself wretchedly held in the enemy's hands. But I resolved to 'die game.' Since die I must, and therefore put as cheerful a face upon the affair as the exceedingly de-
fult circumstances would allow.

"The prison to which I was consigned consisted of a small, one-storyed, one-armed stone house, not far from the bay, which had evidently been used originally as a sun-bakery. Since the British had crossed from Staten Island, the

commander had had the door of this building strengthened and supplied with heavy bolts, and the single window barred with iron—intending to use it as an extraordinary guard-house on special occasions. I was not its first occupant, however. For there were numerous charcoal inscriptions and drawings upon the wall, which must have been the work of some previous prisoner. I remember that one of these inscriptions appeared to be in some dead language—Latin, I suppose. The drawings, too, as far as I can judge, were not devoid of a certain merit. I fancy the prisoner must have been of some rank—or, perhaps, some poor devil of a scholar, who had been impressed in England, and had endeavored to run off as soon as he reached this side. At any rate, the place was desolate enough. There was not a vestige of furniture in the apartment—simply a miserable heap of straw, for a bed, in one corner, an earthen jug, and a tin plate, with a rusty knife. They took all my weapons away from me before they thrust me into the dungeon. Then a young surgeon came and dressed my wounds—not caring a farthing how much he hurt me—and I was left alone to reflections gloomy enough, I can assure you.

"Knowing that it could not be long before the bodies of the men I had slain would be discovered, I had not a particle of doubt that General Howe's promise to hang me some time during the day would be piously fulfilled. Then there was that incessant, harassing thought of what would become of Katrina in my absence, which was enough to drive a fellow mad.

"But my feelings are as buoyant as a soap-bubble. I believe I was never totally hopeless, for an hour on the stretch, in the course of my life. And now, after lying for some time on my back, I began to feel a little more cheerful, and fancied that it wouldn't do any harm to examine the premises, at least. I was further encouraged to find that my wounds were all mere flesh-wounds, and that I had not lost so much blood as I had supposed.

"The day was just breaking over the hills, as I looked out of the grated window, with every promise of a glorious day. I could only see one sentinel—the one who was running up and down before the window, and who saw me looking out—but I could hear the tramp of another one on the other side of the house.

"Take your lead, and I'll follow that, you Yankee villain, or I'll blow your head off," growled the scoundrel, with an oath.

"It's better to be silent than to speak," I replied, without moving from my position. "I only heard his threatening musket, and I uttered the word, calling out the name which I could not bear.

After reading the morning paper slowly, I drew back from the window and I ran to Charles with hands attention the interior of the carriage.

"The roof was quite small, hardly twenty feet square. I should judge. The walls were thick, of rough masonry, but smooth and practically plastered on the inside. The rafters above were large and very crooked, which enabled me to look up into the top of the peaked roof.

"There wasn't much to do in the town, and I was getting
in a bit of a rut. I had to go to the post office, and that was the
only place I could go with a clear conscience, because that is
what I had been doing. But I knew that it was of no
account. I could do it the usual method by the time I had
a piece of time. Then I went to the post office, in the town
above. They had evidently been there, and they had
in the cellars. I had to go down there, and one
of the large ones they had. I went down there, and the
other end of the room was to break my way through
the wall. But there was a large iron door, and the
bars were too strong for my hands. And what was I to do
to pick a lock? I thought. The door was of iron, and what
was I to do? It was already dark, it was getting dark, and what I was to do
here. I sat on the steps, I sat on the steps, and I was getting
bored. I was bored, and I was bored, and I was bored.
And I was bored.

permitted to do so. He went out. Although as hungry as a bear-cub, I did not touch the food till he returned, bringing with him, to my great joy, a roughly-fashioned three-legged stool. I thanked him kindly, and he went away.

I ate my breakfast with an excellent appetite. A long pull at the jar of water refreshed me still more. I then got upon the stool, and found that I could easily reach one of the larger beams. But to draw it out of the beam was another matter. I forgot to mention that my left shoulder, very near the arm-pit, where I had been wounded the most severely, was the greatest obstacle to making use of my whole powers. I could use my left arm a little; but it was attended with excessive pain—especially when I raised it up, as I was now compelled to do, in working at the hook. I soon had the mortification of confessing to myself that the extraction of the hook was, under the circumstances, an impossibility. I tried some of the other hooks and staples, but they were all firmly imbedded in the hard, smoke-seasoned timber.

"I was about to give up all hope of escape, and return my thanks to my fate, when my eye caught sight of something on the ledge of the wall, between the top of the wall and the commencement of the rising roof. It looked like the edge of a scythed-hake, or some other strong, keen instrument. But again my heart sank.

"The ledge was far above my head. To reach it it would be necessary to draw my left up by the main force of arms, and throw myself over one of the beams, where I should probably be enabled to work my way along to the ledge of the wall. With sound body and limbs, I should have been able to do it but as this. But now my left arm was almost powerless. I tried in vain to get upon the stool, and at length resorted to my pocket-stow, otherwise I would have been lost, and my left arm considerably swollen and very painful.

"I then tried the pocket-stow with a last and despairing effort, to find arms in his pocket. But it contained nothing but a dozen of the darning needles and pins which I had brought with me, and I could think their example could have been of no use. I had no other resource. I would willingly have exchanged the world for another, had I not the regiment of spiders.

"But, at length, I thought of Katrina, and the agonizing reflections of what might be the consequence of my continued absence to her seemed to inspire me with superhuman vigor. I was never a sincere believer in special providences until that moment. But I can ascribe to no natural agency the wondrous energy with which I was suddenly invigorated.

"I speak the truth when I say that, with one hand, I drew myself up to my chin, and flung myself over the beam. It was still a difficult task to work my way along the rafter, but I accomplished it, and reached the ledge of the wall. To my gratification, I found it to be a deposit of various tools, which had probably been hidden there upon the approach of the invading army. I secured a spade, a stout hatchet, and a mallet and chisel. Dismounting from my perch, I dropped them down—their fall upon the floor, which was nothing but the ground, precluding their making a noise—and then descended myself, much faster than I had climbed up.

"I now set to work, behind the heap of straw, to mine my way through the wall—selected this spot, because I believed it would give me an egress between the sentinels, instead of at right angles to the up-and-down tramp of either. I judged of this by the sound of their steps, and thought that I might then choose my time and make a rush for the marsh which was situated a short distance below General Howe's tent, and not very far, I judged, from my place of incarceration.

"I set to work perseveringly at the foot of the wall—picking out the mortar with my chisel, and prying at the stones with my hatchet and spade. But, the job gave promise of being both long and tedious. If out of breath, I could have breached the foundation in an hour. But the close proximity of the sentinels necessitated light blows and the utmost caution.

"However, by about ten o'clock, as I judged by the sun, I had picked out a large block, when some one at the door again alarmed me. Hastily covering my tools and the loosened mortar with the straw, I soon assumed my painful attitude of recumbency, with, now and then, a groan or two to make things more natural.

"I was surprised by the entrance of General Howe. He was attended by one of his officers, and spoke rather harshly, I thought, considering the pitiable figure I cut.

"It has been decided, prisoner, that you shall be executed on the evening of this day, at sunset," said he. "Have you any thing to say in regard to your sentence?"

"I shook my head feebly.

"But have you nothing to say," he continued, with some heat, "of the ruthless assassinations which have marked your course in my camp? How can you reconcile your own conscience to these hideous crimes?"

"I do not consider myself guilty of any crimes," I replied, not caring how boldly I spoke. "I am no assassin. The men whom I slew in your camp could, each of them, have been stricken down by me from behind, and never have seen the hand that felled them. Each one of them I confronted before I struck, and with each I had a fair, free fight. I consider it no crime to take the lives of my country's foes, in fair contest. If what I have done shall have contributed but a hair's breadth to the success of our cause, I shall die contented." The General knit his brows, and paced the floor for a few moments in silence. Then he said:

"Who sent you upon this mission?"

"My superior."

"His name?"

"You will not obtain it from me."

"You must answer my queries," said the General, angrily. "It is in my power to have your sentence carried out upon this instant if I choose. It may be found more expedient to fix your execution at noon," he added with a slight sneer.

"If you are sufficiently mean to rob a doomed man of any portion of his little lease of life, you are welcome to do so," I replied; "but I shall certainly not answer the question you have propounded."

"He knit his brows again, but did not renew his threat.

"Are you acquainted in New York?" was his next inquiry.

"To a considerable extent, sir," I replied.

"What do you know of General Washington?"

"Nothing more than that he is a Christian gentleman and a glorious soldier."

"What do you know of a Mr. Gilbert Whipple?"

"I know him for a mean-souled, white-livered Tory dog;

and one whose love of life will probably be materially strengthened by my decease.'

"A personal enemy, eh?"

"Yes, sir. . . When we meet, he dies."

"It is not at all probable that you will meet—in this world," said General Howe.

"He relapsed into silence, and presently departed, saying nothing more; but I thought that he did not seem so stern when he went away.

"Left alone, I again fell to work on my mining operation, and continued it for hours without interruption. But it was a trying task. Sometimes I would go away for half an hour and hardly succeed even in breaking a fragment. Then, again, I would roll out a large block with comparatively little exertion, only to be stalled, immediately afterwards, by a more difficult obstruction.

"It must have been about eight when I reached the outer layer of the thick wall. To that distance I had succeeded in making a very wide break—a long, jagged, rent, that I was fearful of being unable to extend it, should I be again interrupted. But no one came.

"This outer stratum, which I had now reached, was the thinnest of all. My object was to break this completely, without detaching a stone, until I was ready for my attempt; when I intended to seize the last block of stone, suddenly burst through the wall by an impulsive push, and make for the outside. If I could reach that, I was confident of escape for I was familiar with the situation, having been buried within a short distance of it. It was an old, slightly irregular wall, with a thick band of stone forming the middle, beyond which was an exterior layer of smaller rocks and other boulders, which I had haphazardly explored, as a boy, in search of water-balls. But the path led to this wall, and that was sufficient, and, in my mind, I reached it as quickly as a bird of prey. A moment's absence from the prison, would make but little impression. Once out of the wall, I was positive that I could reach the General's house, and intercept him from his march, and, by so doing, I could get up the stairs, and grow more than a foot in my roll.

"But this last part of my 'running operation' was by far

the most delicate and dangerous of all. If a single stone should happen to fall out, in the course of my manipulation of the pierreuses, the attention of the guard would most likely be attracted, and my death by the hangman insured. Then, again, if I should miscalculate the weakness of the wall—if I should, unfortunately, make my rush against it too soon, then but an insufficient breach would be made, and my plot nipped in the bud.

Nevertheless, there was no time to spare. I sat every instant to hear the coming of some one to prepare me for the scaffold. Therefore, I worked with a will—cautiously, but with trembling hands.

At length I got the layer of stones down to a state of mortar, and concluded that it was about time to make my attempt. I listened attentively, till I thought the two sentinels were furthest away, and then, seizing my hatchet, I burst against the wall with such force as to lacerate myself considerably. The wall yielded as by magic, and my sharp masonry rolled me out with the fragments.

For a second or two the dust of the tumbling fabric concealed me; besides this the guards, for a few seconds, must have been transfixed with amazement at the sudden appearance of the solid wall. I was on my legs in an instant, and away like a bird, with a ringing cry, for I saw the town in the distance like a cloud of hope.

“Crack! went one of the iron bolts in my hand, and I was unharmed; crack! went the other, and ‘I was hit just where he missed me before,’ as the Irishman said. The doors burst, the bugles blared, the whole camp was a noise. But I was beyond the range of most of them. The marsh was in sight. With a will-o'-the-wisp I dashed toward it, when a single soldier ran in my path and blocked his run. I had time to fire; the tomahawk, and I let him have my hatchet. The soldier sank. He went down with a crash a shell; but I stepped over him over his body, and fell full length, the shell hitting my shoulder. I shuddered to such a degree that I shivered for life. Quickly rending my coat, however, I ran on. I lay upon, and, a moment after, was rolling across the ground. I was covered by a shower of bullets, but fortunately receiving no further wounds.

"Reaching the little island I rolled over on the firm turf, completely spent. I had the satisfaction of witnessing five or six dragoons, who had pursued me, bounding in the marsh, up to their horses' bellies, and surpassing their fellow-soldiers in Flanders, in point of oath-taking; while the remainder of the army—to all appearances—were collecting on the verge of the treacherous mire, shouting and jawing each other to their hearts' content.

"I lay until somewhat rested—not at all fearful that any of them would succeed in reaching me. When I got upon my legs again I was surprised to find that I was very lame. This was from one of my wounds of the morning. The excitement had prevented my noticing it for the while; but now, when my blood was cooling, it began to bite like a thousand scorpions, and I could only walk with the greatest difficulty.

"However, walk I must, and walk I did. I proceeded to pick my way through the reeds to the northward, and, after an hour or more of infernal suffering, succeeded in reaching the American pickets, who were grumbling at not being able to be present with the rest of the army, at the execution of the British spy.

"A party of them helped me into camp, but I fainted twice on the way."

CHAPTER XI.

THE BLUNDERER'S BLUNDER.

To return to New York and the Golden Shark.

Old Goldie Van Slover had felt peculiarly satisfied with himself ever since his triumphant validation of the efficacy of his funnel-mouthed blunderer.

"I guess Mr. Vipple won't want to make my little gallery do next time, when he makes setting," was his only somewhat complacent reflection, as he stood barking in the beams of the setting sun, at his tavern door.

But Goldie would have thought differently, if he had been more conversant with the character of Katrien's "gentleman" suitor.

Whipple really was moved by a deep and powerful passion for the landlord's daughter. Designing to make her his wife at all hazards, a forcible abduction was deemed necessary. He was just shallow enough to imagine that she would forgive, when he should be enabled to surround her with the splendor of a position foreign to and beyond that to which she had been accustomed. But Gilbert Whipple was not the first wise man of whom passion had made a fool.

Of a wealthy English family, and born in England, his faults probably were the result of his caste education, rather than of any natural depravity. He was the possessor of vast wealth—most of it in his native land—and was thus independent enough to be careless of any opposition which his relatives might make to a marriage beneath his social position. We have only introduced him to the reader as a gay gentleman, endeavoring to steal a kiss or two from a pretty girl. But there was more than this. It rankled in his breast that he had once asked Katrina to be his wife, and had met with a refusal. He was pertinacious, unscrupulous and powerful; and, what he could not win by love, he was, at last, resolved to obtain by force—not doubting that she would be readily dazzled by the position she would attain, upon reaching England with him, as his bride, and that she would rather thank than repulse the hand which exalted her to it.

Had Whipple made his first advances to the father, instead of the daughter, it is possible that he would have found a powerful ally in the former; for, as we have already seen, Gottlieb's vanity was great, and it does not seem likely that he would have been able to resist a suitor of Whipple's position and elegance. But the old man's prejudices were as strong as his vanity, and now the distrust he had naturally conceived for the rich man was implacable.

We left the Dutch landlord standing on the steps of his tavern. He felt very contented with all the world. He was well to do; he had but a shadow of a doubt that General Washington was going to drive "ter Britishers," as he called them, into the Atlantic Ocean, in a very short time; the bay looked beautiful, as it danced in the mellow splendor of the sinking sun; the Golden Shark on the top of the sign also gleamed as if it were gold indeed; the war brought the tavern

plenty of profitable exercise; and, in fact, Gauthier was very well pleased with him, if not very fond of him. He was not even, at present, especially fond of Willy, though he remembered the Terry's-act, and the efforts of the blunderbuss.

But now, as he had to leave the street, he saw a man enter Willy's house. This opportunity caused him to pull his cap off. This was the man whom we have already introduced to the reader—the man of the July 1st. Gauthier knew him, and it was not a difficult task for him to follow the bullet train over the way, and he, therefore, experienced a lack in his sense of security. It was for this reason that, when he entered his bedroom, he said to Katrina:

"My dear, I shall sit up in the room all night, and I'll be with you."

Katrina's wide eyes grew wider with anxiety.

"Sit up, father! What will you do?" she exclaimed.

"Mit milze gern," said Gauthier, quickly reaching for the blunderbuss.

So his daughter will be safe, and he only went to support and encourage his wife, and to comfort her, rather than tentatively examining his gun, and his intentions, fearing a quarrel, or an attack, or a struggle in the neighborhood. And, after ten minutes over, Gauthier said to both of us that she then would go and play with his daughter again. Katrina felt a certain sense of security in the security of the others, when she went to lie in the bedroom, and it was closed, and left her father, and her mother, and Gauthier, in the other room. She had, however, a slight fear of being seen by the others, but she had no fear of being seen by the neighbors, and she was induced to stand down from her mother to stand by her side, and to go to bed with her.

The following night, however, when the old man was last seen, and when he left the room, he was seen to have his hand upon his gun. Katrina, however, did not notice this, and did not notice that he had his gun, and, generally, I think that this was a good idea, for it is difficult, and, indeed, it is dangerous, to be the object of an armed sentinel.

But the old Dutchman was a better protector than even his little daughter gave him credit for. There was one thing which never failed to awake him, and that was the deep voice of his watch-dog, which was kept in the back-yard of the tavern. A cannon might have been fired under his window, without arousing him, but the bark of old Black would startle him out of the deepest slumber. It was not more than an hour after Katrina's visit that the landlord was awakened by this trusty summons. He started, rubbed his eyes, and listened again, almost doubting his hearing had served him correctly. He heard the bark again, and this time there was no mistaking it. It was the harsh, savage bark of the watch-dog, which was premonitory of danger. Then there came the sharp crack of a pistol, a wild, agonizing howl of pain and anger, and all was silent again.

By this time the old man was thoroughly alarmed. He hastened into the entry with the light in his hand. Peering at the foot of the stairs, he called out nervously:

"Katrina! Katrina!"

There was no answer.

With a cold, sick feeling about his belly he ran up the stairs to her chamber. The door was locked, but he burst it in by a single push of his foot. Katrina was not there! The window was open, and the light upon the path not. Above the reverberation of the pistol a faint patter. The room gave evidence of a struggle, for the furniture was overturned, the clothes scattered about, and Katrina's dress clung to the high back of a chair, showing that she must have been taken out in great haste.

Now old Gedell was not by nature a brave man, but when he saw that his life's treasure — his darling daughter — had really been torn from him, and when he smelt that the author of the deed must be none other than the "Devil" over the way, he became another man, and as Gedell was a man his teeth came together sharply and firmly, and with an impudent view of victory, he ran down stairs and out of the house, with the blunderbuss in his hand.

The first thing he stumbled over in the yard was the body of his faithful Black, which explained the meaning of the pistol-shot and the howl which he had heard. Gedell stood

caught a glimpse in the distance of the disappearing forms of several men, one of whom he thought bore Katrina in his arms. With a shout of vengeance, the old man started in pursuit. His unwieldy figure seemed to be suddenly gifted with wings, as he plunged down the long, dark alley, heading directly to the river, from Broadway. The men were evidently badly scared, for they had not fled far before the one who carried the maiden laid down his burden, and went on without it. But Gotlieb was not to be stayed by the recovery of his child alone. He pursued the villains farther, and, just as they turned into the river street, he brought his blunderbuss to his shoulder, and blazed away, bringing down the man who had borne Katrina.

Almost simultaneously with the discharge of his weapon, he heard the tramp, tramp of soldiers, and had the satisfaction, upon arriving in the open street, of seeing the remainder of the ruffians brought to a standstill by a squad of Washington's own guard.

"Holt 'em, holt 'em, till I hearis mine p' and spes' voice more!" shouted the halberdier, as he came panting up to the group.

A few words explained every thing to the general of the squad, and the men were taken into custody.

The party then proceeded to the fallen body of the man whom the blunderbuss had brought to earth. It proved to be that of Gilbert Whipple himself. He was stone-dead, and the ghastly appearance of the corpse caused an exclamation of wonder from the soldiers. The Tory had received the entire charge of the blunderbuss in his back, between the shoulders, and was almost riddled with balls.

"There's n't much danger of his waking up!" observed one of the men.

"Neh! and it vas all fr' aik like prov' d' p' an h'p'p'—de goon of mine fr' rel'hs!" said Gotlieb, proudly putting the stock of his weapon.

He then proceeded to reward, and gently lift from the ground the still senseless form of poor Katrina. She had been surprised in her deep sleep,惊起, and borne away, and had fainted through excess of terror, but was not harmed. She was soon revived, and recovered her vivacity, both of body and mind;

but there was very little further sleeping done upon that night in the Golden Shark tavern.

Thus perished Gilbert Whipple—a bold, talented man—in the commission of a deed, which, most likely, benefited his future as little as it did his earthly existence. His companions in crime were conveyed to prison, and, in the course of time, received a meet reward for their evil deeds.

CHAPTER XII.

THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND.

An hour before the dawn of the 27th of August, 1776, the attack upon the American lines was in active preparation—indeed, more than half of the British army was already on the move.

At the same time, and before the guns of either army were heard, old Gotlieb Von Snoozy electrified his pretty daughter by shouldering his blunderbuss and signifying his intention to participate in the fight. All entreaties, upon her part, had no effect in altering the stern resolve of her father.

"Vot!" he exclaimed, "shall de descendant of de great admiral keep de ploonterpuss of his forefathers silent when de British makes fight on Sheneral Washington? Never! Vot for you makes ven you makes mitting? Farevell, mine child! I goes to de fight. I may makes mysself a Major-Sheneral or von cold and silent dead man, but I goes and does mine duty!"

And he did. He crossed at Fulton street, and was soon in line with a body of minute-men, who had preceded him from the city but a few moments before. That blunderbuss was the wonder of the soldiers. Many were the curious eyes which examined it in old Gotlieb's hands. The officers, in fact, had much trouble in keeping the not too orderly volunteers in line, so eager were they to explore the mystery of the queer old piece.

"One pound of bullets to a load!" cried one. "Why don't you go into the flying artillery?"

"Guess we'll let the old dog do all the fighting today," said another; "because there won't be many rebels left if he works well."

"I will work well — to the very end, and will kill every nasty He (Anvot) on earth," was Gull's positive reply.

But the fighting had not yet ceased to show his prowess. March to his command he was ordered out of the ranks and given in charge of an independent, who conducted him, with every effort, to the Ferry; and Gull, despite his threats to run it all to the Commander-in-Chief — despite his assertions that the Black Dogs would destroy a whole regiment at a shot — was ushered into the ferry, with orders to report at once to the General Staff. He arrived at the inn too full and too fatigued to "report" anything, even to the impudent and unkind Kurn. The matchless flint-lock was hung upon its peg in the wall, and Gull's leave and share of the general reward were all that he had to think of the glory denied him.

The valuable information, which through the agency of Joe Willer, had enabled the Americans to successfully strengthen their position by an elaborate system of certain divisions. General Willer was reported to have said, that, were it not for the unfortunate and untimely death of the Dutchman, which he attributed to his desire, soon, it was very probable the Americans might not have been entirely annihilated. As it was, he was enabled to use his largely important services to the advantage that, in the event of disaster, the fate of the army was foreseen.

The battle of Long Island was a most unfortunate, if we judge by the results, as we should be, by the fate which it inspired. In the battle of the 17th of July, 1776, an affair the result of which the Americans could be considered as having more than an even chance — the result of the consideration of the numbers engaged. But, indeed, in the result of the day, the Americans had a heavy loss of Long Island was not only greater in proportion, than the losses of a people three times of the number of the soldiers of Christopher and Christopher. The former lost about the one quarter of a number — a loss which, however, of an

enemy's territory, whose acres were to be numbered by millions. The former decided the occupation of an extensive commercial port—the effect of a bombardment, with its batteries, ships, houses and stores.

The battle appeared at hand so early as the 23d. Every gun had been prepared, as well as possible, for the attack at that time. The orders were admirably calculated to awaken a martial spirit in the American troops. The parole was Châlons, and the countersign, Léz—the former inspiring a remembrance of the successful defense of Fort McHenry and Sullivan Islands, from which the enemy had been repelled but a short time before.

The passage of the East River, at this time, was so obstructed by logs, chains, and other obstructions to prevent a general passage, all apprehensions on that side.

On the 24th, Washington held a council of war to submit to the support of General Sullivan, with him, to the ready either to reinforce him or to return to New York, if the remainder of the fleet, then at the water's edge, should leave the city.

Reinforcements were early sent to Long Island, and consequently a battle-dressing took place there on the 25th, in the course of which Col. M. M. Van Rensselaer, received a mortal wound, and soon after died. No other reinforcements, except from General Washington, arrived, however, in time to be useful, and they numbered, not making the entire numbered force of Washington, about twenty thousand. But of these, a heavy proportion were in the hospitals and on furlough.

The fleet of battle at length arrived—*at daylight of the 27th*, as we have already intimated.

Against the American forces numbered twenty thousand, the rebels, probably, did not exceed sixteen thousand five hundred.

The operations of the enemy had been delayed from day to day by expectation of reinforcements, until the 29th, when, by the arrival of the South Carolina troops, with others from the *Charleston*, *Port Royal*, and the *Wetumpka*, their army amounted to nearly thirty thousand. With these it was determined to make the assault. On this day, the 29th, the fleet began to move the troops. On this day, the 29th, the fleet began to move the troops.

stationed as to cover the troops, they were landed without opposition on Long Island, between Utrecht and Gravesend, two small villages not far from the Narrows, on the side nearest to Staten Island.

It is necessary, in order that the reader may clearly comprehend the battle which followed, that we should thus particularize the details of movements immediately preceding it.

The American works, as already stated, extended, in horseshoe form, across a narrow peninsula, leaving the East River on the left, a marsh on the right, with the Bay and Governor's Island in the rear. A great portion of what is now the city of Brooklyn would thus be included in the curve of the semi-circular line.

This position was not naturally of great strength. We have already mentioned the approaches to it, through the hills at the Narrows; the one nearest the Bay; the Flatbush road; and the Bedford road.

These passes are very narrow—the sides exceedingly steep and rugged, so as to be intimated by a small number against any force whatever, with difficulty from the heights.

An early attention had been paid to these three passes through the hills, and a body of eight hundred men were stationed for the protection of each of them; while Colonel Miles, with a battalion of riflemen, was placed a mile to the eastward, in the wood, to guard the road to Jamaica, in order to watch the enemy and keep up a continual communication with the other corps stationed at the passes.

On the approach of the enemy's hosts, the garrison parties on the coast had retired to the rear of the second pass on the Flatbush road. Lord Cornwallis followed at their heels, with his reserve and his heavily armed troops, in the hope of securing the pass; but, finding it already occupied by the Americans, he, in obedience to his orders, made no attempt to dislodge them.

Three days afterward, on the 20th, these forces of the British were reinforced by General De Heister, with two brigades of Hessians, from Staten Island.

It is said that this last general, who knew nothing of the enemy he was about to encounter in battle, was still by no means in command, "that the Americans had determined to give the foreigners no quarter."

"Very well," said De Heister, with the utmost composure, "as I know the terms, I am ready to fight."

The consequence of such mistaken notions was, as might be expected, a desperate ferocity in battle—no giving or taking quarter; and, so far, they may have contributed to the success of the day.

Another circumstance which, undoubtedly, contributed to the sanguinary nature of the battle, and the victory of the British, was this: a defeat would have been nothing short of destruction to them. Pressed by a victorious enemy, they might have been prevented from reembarking—and, perhaps, cut to pieces or made prisoners, before they could receive reinforcements. They were *destined* to conquer. This may be seen by a reference to Washington himself, in a similar case, when he was placed in a perilous situation, and was supposed to have risked too much.

On the 26th, General Howe, having fully matured a plan for the surprise of General Sullivan, directed General De Heister to post himself at Flatbush in the evening.

This division composed the center. About nine o'clock in the evening, the main body, led by General Clinton, Earl Percy and Lord Cornwallis, formed of the best troops in the army, attempted to gain the road, leading round the eastern end of the hills to Jamaica, with a view of turning the American left wing. On this road Colonel Miles was stationed; but, by some unfortunate chance, the enemy were not discovered until they had gained two miles in his rear, when the alarm was instantly given.

Just before daylight, on the 27th, Sir Henry Clinton, having advanced within half a mile of the road, halted his forces and made his dispositions for an immediate attack. Every thing conspired to favor his enterprise. One of his parties fell in with a patrol of mounted American officers, and took every man of them prisoners; and General Sullivan, depending on them for intelligence, neglected to send out another patrol. He was thus left in complete ignorance of the enemy's approach.

At the first appearance of light, General Clinton, with a battalion of light infantry, took possession of the heights which commanded the road. Some hours before, about midnight,

It's left wing, under General Grant, which had been advanced to turn the American and covered his own advance on their left, had been driven off the ground. This ground, composed entirely of New York and Pennsylvania troops, instantly about 10000 men, and under General Powers, the first intimation of the enemy—when at that moment, were suddenly driven the left wing of the hill. About twenty of the first files were the only rank, and passed on a slight slope a mile in front of the rest, who halted and fired their carbines for the attack. This was done to General Sedgwick, with about fifteen hundred men, in possession of a hill about two miles from the American camp, and in front of General Grant.

The general engagement began soon after daylight, by the Hessians, under General D. H. Hill, and the Floridians, and by General Grant, along the road, and was supported by the Americans with greater vigor for a longer time.

Those who were first met by General D. H. Hill fought with determined gallantry, until they found that General Clinton had gained their hill, when they turned to the left and fled toward their camp. It was about this time General Clinton was in their rear, with the vicinity of the Dutch right.

He had passed the Hessian hill and reached his army, and now charged the Americans with his horses and his fury, just as they had charged the Hessians, and were flying to their hill. He charged as follows: they were to turn back upon the Hessian—the Hessians turned up their charge. And this was the Americans' turn; in an instant driven off, they ran to the hill, and the Hessians, from the Hessians to the Dutch, and so on, they suddenly counter-attacked, and drove them in turn, and cut their way through to their own camp.

The troops, under General Sedgwick, and of General Atkinson, still drove on with the Americans, with great vigor, under General M. W. Smith, and for six hours with the whole British army, under General Grant. The whole operations of the Americans had been with them on the ground, in regular order. Their regularity was the result of the regular

information brought by Joe Wilder, the scout. But, the culpable surprise and unforeseen defection of the American left wing, ruined the well-digested plans of the Commander-in-Chief. Nevertheless, he is reported to have said, that, without that information upon which he formed his outposts, he would never have been able to save his army from annihilation, by the masterly retreat which followed the disastrous battle.

Lord Stirling's force fought with the determination of veterans. But, owing to the capture of the signal party, so deficient were these fine troops in the means of intelligence, that they were only apprised of the movements of General Clinton by his approach, having traversed the whole country in their rear. Their retreat being thus interrupted, a desperate effort was the only chance of escape; and a large proportion, after breaking through the enemy's ranks, succeeded in reaching the works. Many threw themselves into the marsh in Gowanus's Cove. Some were drowned and others perished in the works; but a considerable number eventually reached their intrenchments.

The royal troops fought valiantly the entire day. The memory of former duties, and a desire of retrieving their reputation, stimulated them to their utmost.

The nature of the ground broke up both parties into detachments, and, of course, gave a greater opportunity for destruction. So full of ardor and impetuosity were they, after their victory, that they could hardly be withheld from immediately storming the American works.

The victorious army encamped in front of the American works on the evening after the battle; and, on the 28th, built the works in form about five hundred yards in front of Putnam's redoubt, which covered the American left. A regular assault was begun.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE RETREAT.

On the day following the battle, General Millin reinforced the Americans with one thousand fresh troops. The next morning, August 25th, in a conversation with the Commander-in-Chief on the subject, he observed:

"You must either fight or retreat immediately. What is your strength?"

"Nine thousand," was the reply.

"It is not sufficient—we must retreat."

Such had been Washington's opinion. He never designed to sustain the regular approach of his enemy. His works were only calculated for temporary defense. It was agreed that a council of war should be convened—that General Millin should propose a retreat. But, as he was to make the proposal, and his reputation was at stake, he stipulated that, if a retreat should be resolved upon, he should command the rear; if an action, the van. These measures, among others, were urged in council:

"The heavy rains which have fallen for two days and nights, with but little intermission, have injured the arms and spoiled a great part of the ammunition, and the soldiers, being without cover and obliged to lie in their lines, are worn out. From the time the enemy sailed from Flushing, several large ships have attempted to get up, as supposed, into the East River, to cut off our communication, by which the whole army would be cut off; but the wind being north-east, they have not been able to do it. The troops have become dispirited by their frequent duty and watchfulness." Upon this representation of the state of affairs, it was unanimously resolved to abandon the fort.

At the commencement of the battle, Joe Wilder had been removed far within the entrenchments, out of reach of the danger, which none were then believed to share. But, his wounds had, of course, kept him inactive during the day of

battle. His coveted commission as captain was not delayed, however, and he was particularly anxious to cross the river to surprise old Gotlieb, and to kiss his sweetheart. As his wounds were more ugly than serious, he was, at the time the retreat was determined upon, able to be about and to make himself useful. He managed to procure a captain's uniform, and, as General Washington gave him plenty to do in connection with the preparations for retreat, he hoped soon to surprise the Golden Shark with a real live captain for a guest, as well as to see his dear mother once more. The retreat having been determined upon, preparations were put on foot immediately.

Colonel Glover, with his regiment, was ordered to take command of the flat-bottomed boats and other vessels, in order to superintend the embarkation. General McDougal and Colonel Knox were stationed at the upper and lower ferries on the East River. The former was on the ground at eight o'clock; but the militia had not then embarked. Many difficulties occurred, which would, at any time, have been thought remarkable; but, at that time, they were thought to be the interposition of that Providence which had suffered them to be so cruelly defeated.

While the troops were assembling on the shore, the tide began to ebb; the wind blew strong from the north-west, and the rapidity of the current made it appear to be impossible to effect the retreat in the course of the night, as they had but few row-boats, and sail-boats could not be used. Under this distressing embarrassment, General McDougal sent Colonel Grayson, one of Washington's aids, to get instructions from the Commander-in-Chief—at the same time pronouncing the retreat to be impracticable for that night. The colonel was unable to find the General, and, immediately on his return, the embarkation was commenced under all those discouragements. But, about eleven o'clock, the wind died away, and, soon after, a breeze sprung up from the south-west, enabling them to use the sail-boats. Thus, their retreat was rendered safe, easy and expeditious. The embarkation was still farther protected by a fog (so uncommon for the season, that one of the citizens of New York declared he had not known one in that season for twenty or thirty years,) which came in a

remarkably thick mist about two in the morning, and hovered like a cloud over the Long Island shore, while the New York side was bright and clear.

The fog and wind continued pretty well till the whole army—amounting to nine thousand men—with all their field-artillery, such heavy ordnance as was most valuable, ammunition, provisions and stores were safely brought off the Island. All this was effected over a distance of more than a mile in width, in thirteen hours, most of the time in a violent rain, without the knowledge of the enemy, who were hard at work within six hundred yards.

The water was so remarkably smooth as to admit of the boats being landed within a few inches of their gunwales.

Scarcely were the works abandoned, and the regulars fully embarked, when the fog cleared away, and four of the American boats were discovered on the river—three about half-way over, full of troops; and the fourth, in which were a few persons, who had stayed to repel a sally, was near at the shore that it was captured. Shortly afterwards, the enemy were seen to take possession of the works.

Governor's Island, where the regulars were stationed, was also abandoned at the same time, without a blow. The removal of the military stores was completed on the 1st of September, when nothing was left but the heavy ordnance, notwithstanding several of the enemy's ships of war lay within a quarter of a mile.

CHAPTER XIV.

A WEDDING AND TWO PRESENTS.

OPPRESSED as General Washington was by the want of details which he—very naturally—had in his power by the concentration of the army within the limits of New York city, and the consequent and continual importunity of J. M. Wilkes. The latter had been half-fascinated by his mother, and his mother ever since he had got up in his long illness. And, before noon of that day which still hangs over the general army, the General had given his assent, and given it reluctantly, to a few hours.

Slowly was the permission received before Joe bounded across State street, and up Broadway by the Bowling Green. It seemed to him as if weeks instead of days had passed since his departure on his dangerous mission. He half-expected to find all the gilding worn off the Golden Shark, and the tavern, which it represented, moldering away from very old age.

But these unpleasant illusions were dissipated as he approached his goal. Every thing was as tidy and bright as formerly. Old Gallib was standing in the doorway, his hearty and dignified, as usual. It was the same old place.

Springing up the steps, and juggling past Gallib with little ceremony, Joe gained the inside of the taproom, and, the door instant, with a hideous roar of delight, Kathina was in his arms.

The rapture was so exuberant—the kiss so thick, that old Gallib was positively alarmed.

"Dumb dumb I hit you! Not you makes when you makes nothing?" he exclaimed. "Did I tell you my son fell, dat until you was von caption?"

"I was a captain!" exclaimed Joe, pointing to the badge on his shoulder. "And what's more," he continued, "I'm an admiral ship to General Washington! And what's more, I'm to be named to Congress for a law-set me just!"

"You's you's! Take her—take her! Got plasya brother?" said the parent, with an expression of perfect satisfaction. "But, yet you makes? very you! On? Dat is very question?"

"Yes, Joe," said Kathina, through the tears which her joy had induced. "Tell us the whole story."

"It's a bar'ron than you think for," replied her lover. But he had already sat down, with his sword-hilt on his back, and Kathina, with the old man brought the beer, commenced her narrative, with which the reader is familiar.

When the story was finished, Kathina laid her little hand upon Joe's shoulder, with an inward prayer of thankfulness for his safety, and deliverance from death.

As for her father, he had listened to the recital with rapt interest—nearly crediting what he heard. When it was finished, he quietly took the young soldier's hand, looked with interest, and merrily ejaculated: "What do you say to it? Is it all true?"

"It's all true, my boy?"

"True as gospel," cried the exultant Joe. "General Washington will tell you the same thing."

"I believe you, my boy, I believe you," said the honest landlord, shaking him warmly by the hand. "But tell me, is de Sheneral—the real Sheneral Washington, your friend?"

"You will have no doubt on that score before long," said Joe; "for General Washington has promised to be present at my wedding, and to give the bride away to me. What do you think of that?"

"Vot! Sheneral Washington! He give de bride away! Hooray! hooray!" shouted the Dutchman, dancing round the room in the excess of his joy.

Presently, however, he grew more composed, drank two great "schappens" of beer in quick succession, and, leaning over the counter, took down the old blunderbuss. Bringing it to a "shoulder-arms," and assuming his most heroic air, he halted before the young couple, and said:

"Mine prave boy, 'none but de prave deserves de fair,' de breacher he says; und dat is vat I tell mine fren ven we vere courtin', und dat is de reason we vere married. You don't know vat I vas like ven I vas young, eh? I vas young once, I vas; und vas so gay und party dat all de gall's in de country wanted me for a wife. I only took ven frachin', and dat vas de poorest of all de time, mit a f--- so little as my hant und sheeks so red as bricks. You didn't know how prave I vas to deserve dat fair one! You vas almost as prave as me. Katrina is von goot girl. She is prave und you is fair. You will make vell of it or I makes n' thing. If I vas younger I would go in vence mit her und vin von oder fair. I would shoulder mine goot gun, as I now shoulder it, und as I did on Long Island, und would fight like—"

"What! was you on Long Island?" exclaimed the young soldier.

Old Getlieb evidently had forgotten himself in the enthusiasm of the moment. Katrina now expected to hear the story of her father's service and sudden return but was disappointed. Without noticing Jim's question, he proceeded:

"Would fight thust like ven hundred dogs and cats. Vat if we vas vipp'd on de Long Island. We can vip dem ven oder dime. Rely on me, my boy. Call on me ven you wants

a regiment. Forward-arms! Shoulder-march!" And Gotlieb began promenading the room, with his young cannon on his shoulder, evidently thinking that he was as "prave" and "poooty" as in his younger days.

It was arranged that Joe's marriage with Katrina should take place upon the second day following this re-union, as it was very uncertain how long the Americans would be able to stay in the city.

The day of days came to find every thing in readiness. The honor of Katrina's father was involved, as well as the reputation of the Golden Shark inn. The landlord had made great preparations for the bride and the bridal feast, and his efforts were a signal success.

We have only, thus far, introduced the reader to the bar-room of the Golden Shark. He has, doubtless, conjectured that there were cozy chambers above that sun-lit and upper room, with a royal kitchen, dining-room and drawing-room around and behind it. So there were. And upon their wednesday, before a guest had made his appearance, the long deal-tables of the dining-room were beginning to groan beneath their weight of edibles. The beer-barrels—they put it in barrels in those days—were rolled upon the trucks; the silver-board was pretentious with its rows of decanters; the Dutch waiters were hurrying to and fro, and every thing gave token of the approaching feast. Gotlieb was in his glory.

The drawing-room was dressed out in gorgeous array, anticipatory of the occasion. The floor was duly waxed; the dark oil furniture rubbed up till it shone again; and the prim array of Dutch Admirals and other dignitaries, on the walls, looked more pompous than ever, with wreaths of gilded frames. And there was the green screen round which the Lutheran preacher was to improvise an altar, behind which the lovers were to kneel.

Katrina had also been over the house, looking at the preparations. But it was now ten o'clock in the morning; she was to become a part of Joe at eleven, and she was up-stairs with her lover's mother and her little maid.

flitting nervously about, but Joe Wilder was kindly bright and happy, in spite of his sad and lonely life. At length the hour drew near. The guests began to arrive.

The old Kalihiwai, with his sons and daughters, came in promisingly with the multitude of officers and soldiers, most of whom would have been a fit object to see brave Joe Wilder with his young Kalihiwai of the Golden Shark. For the fame of our hero had spread afar. The gazettes had chronicled the story of his wonderful adventures. He was quite a lion, and could well boast of his achievements.

At length there was a rustle, as of the falling vines, upon the stair, and a hum of admiration arose among the assembled guests of the Brewster room, as the bride appeared, followed by her maid and Joe's mother.

Katrina seemed like a vision from other spheres. The glistening veil fell almost to her feet, in flowing folds, and her dress was simple, but beautiful, and radiated the brightness of her soul. Her blushing face was in the shade of the veil, her perturbation stricken with her smile. And in my hands, a knot and shining twist, her brown hair, with its wreath of white roses and green leaves, was clasped through the veil.

Out stepped our hero, from one of his chairs, to meet the bride. He was also the last, but kindly and thoughtful as he only could be, with his hand upon his heart, that his mother hardly knew him for a son.

The clock struck eleven, but before it struck the hundred, the last of the guests entered the room, and there was a general exclamation of surprise, for that guest was General George Washington.

With the weight of the new Republic upon his shoulders, the Commander-in-Chief could yet find time to attend the wedding of a man like Joe Wilder.

Up to this time, General had done the honors of the occasion, with the exception of the speech, which he composed, only to be delivered by himself. But now, as he was about to end the speech, General Washington announced, the most important of the guests, who was steeled with an iron heart, in the history of the world, was seated in the Alabaster. He had not looked up to this illustrious guest. His own personal honor, which he

had never acknowledged to himself before, suddenly arose before his mind's eye in exaggerated proportions. He thought of his hulky, lumbering form, his red nose, his broken English. He suddenly became a monster of deformity to himself. It is thus that the truly small are self-humbled in the presence of the truly great.

Be, the honors had to be done. Mustering up his courage to the uttermost, the landlord approached the General, and, with downcast eyes, began to stammer forth words of welcome; when Washington relieved him of all diffidence by grasping his hand and shaking it warmly. That hand-shake lived in Gotlib's memory like an angel's visit in the remembrance of a saint. It was his boast for the remnant of his days. It served to place him entirely at his ease. The bride was presented to the General with all the dignity of a poor and happy parent. The General was so kind and cordial to her and to every one else, that a most delightful feeling prevailed throughout the apartment. Especially to Joe's old mother, was the General kind and communicative, speaking of her son's services with every word of his father with hope, until the old lady was quite beside herself with joy and pride.

We have not time to describe the wedding minutely. The ceremony was performed, the bride given away, and the couple left in the adjoining apartment devoured with relish.

After it all was over, then came the great ceremony of presenting the bridal gifts. Katrina stood by, surprised and delighted with every thing.

But J. also was to have a surprise. For, at this time, General Washington stepped into the hall, and immediately pronounced, with a handsome sword in his hand. This he pronounced in the following words:

"My friend, I wish to testify to you, by some present, my
appreciation of your services to your country. I can think
of no greater tribute paid to a soldier than a sword. Pray
accept this one from me. The scabbard is simple and the
hilt without a sword; but the blade is stout and of perfect
steel. May you never wear it with honor and use it with
skill. May you never regret you will."

etc., etc., I have to do what you want. But his confidence
John was surprised and embarrassed. But his confidence
quickly returned, and he answered simply:

"General, I am grateful, deeply grateful for your present. Trust me, I shall do my best to honor the weapon."

Joe looked manlier than ever, as he made this little speech, and every one admired his bearing.

The affair was now almost over, but the finale was to come.

Gotlieb stepped out of the room, and returned, bearing the old blunderbuss. This he solemnly presented to his son-in-law, with the following dignified speech:

"Mine boy, God bless you. I also brings mit me von present to makes you. Not more appropriate dan de goon of mine forefathers. Take dis plowderpuss, mine boy. May you vare it mit glory and use it in your country's cause."

Every one smiled at the honest landlord. But, Joe accepted the present with becoming gravity, and promised never to dim its glory.

Washington smilingly took up the weapon to examine it.

"How many balls is all I got for it, my friend?" he asked of Gotlieb, at the same time eying the well-worn, funnel-shaped muzzle, with an unusual expression.

"Von quart," was the rejoinder.

"How would we carry our ammunition, if our troops were armed with such weapons?" whispered the General to Colonel Miles, who was at his side.

"We should have to provide them with a caisson apiece, instead of cartridge-boxes," replied the officer, smiling.

And that was the end of the meeting.

CHAPTER XV.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF.

SEVERAL years after the occurrence of the events we have been narrating, a stranger would have delighted to traverse the streets of New York.

Not that there were not many signs of desolation still. Blackened ruins remained of the great fire that had raged so fiercely soon after the occupation by the British. There were

Plenty of tokens of the invader's wantonness remaining. But what it was that would have delighted a stranger, was the expression of joy and enthusiasm in the faces of the people.

It was a gala-day in the streets. Thousands of the inhabitants lined the sidewalks. There was evidently some pageant expected; for, now and then, certain little Knickerbocker urchins, perched upon lamp and awning-posts, would sing out, "Here they come!" "No they don't!" "I tell you, I see the flags!" "And I hear the drums!" "No you don't, it wants an hour of the time," etc., etc. Children of an older growth were also looking up the streets, with similar exclamations of impatient expectation.

Let us walk down Broadway to the Bowling Green. Here, especially, the crowds are dense. The tap-room stoop of the Golden Shark is crowded with waiting spectators. And there, as I live, is old Gotlieb Von Snooze, looking bolder, fatter and more good-humored than ever.

He stands in the doorway of the tap-room, and is pointing his lips in a comical way, to make a little fellow of five years old, or thereabouts, laugh at him. And who is that handsome, matronly-looking young lady, who has the aforesaid little fellow by the hand? That is not Katrina, surely? Yes it is. And she is twice as pretty as she ever was before. There may be a little sadder expression than of old—a token of the exuberance of youth, but her eyes are deep and holly with the cares of motherhood, though very bright at present with the same expectation which enthuses the entire populace.

"There they come!" for the fiftieth time cried an urchin perched in a locust tree of the Bowling Green. And this time he spoke the truth.

What was coming? What was the meaning of all this tumult?

It meant that the American army, or a portion of it, were about to enter New York once more. The British had evacuated some time before. The war was almost over; and the golden dawn of freedom was brightening in the horizon.

And now the drums of the advancing troops are indeed heard, and, from the shouts of the people far up the street, we know, and, from the shouts of the people far up the street, we know, that they have already entered the town. And it is evident that they have already entered the town. And it is evident that they have already entered the town. And here they come, at last, fling past the Golden Shark—bronzed

veterans of freedom's fight, every man a hero, with rib and dram in victorious strains, and the battle-honored banners unfurling in the fresh morning's air.

First came the Connecticut troops, filing past, and then halting on either side of the street, with a hollow square between their ranks. The Reg't of Massachusetts followed, then the New Yorkers—the latter, especially, being received with tumultuous cheers.

When the lines were thus formed in a long hollow square, the appearance of the troops, from a stand-point in the center of the street, looking up, was very striking. You saw no holiday soldiers there. They were all veterans—some of them hale as many of them shabby and ragged, but all of them hardy and fearless, gun in hand. The rebels would have laughed at their friendless, frightened appearance, but they were gentle men, for whom they fought, you would not have laughed, I am sure.

The citizens ran out with great pails of soup, and other good things, and it was not long before the men were enjoying themselves, though still clinging, as yet, to their ranks.

Godlike General Scott to their command. Each after each of commanding bear was rolled into the street, bristled and armed, Katrina moving about among the ranks veterans, and weeping them with tears in her eyes.

At length the general bear was heard coming down the street, with bay of brass in trumpet and roll of drum, the quick word of command sent along the square, and the ranks, which though a little huddled up at first, at arms."

You could hear the cheering and cheering from you much louder than before, and you saw the bear made as spruce as ever. Then came down the general cheer of the rebels, civilians and soldiers joining in for the great General and other chieftains of the Army, all shouting and cheering the bear.

General Washington was first. His voice was louder than when we first heard his song, the whole crowd, greater, louder, in his jubilant shout and cheer. The sound is of these great things must be heard to be believed.

On his left was General Scott. On his right, waving a hand to his wife, rode General Weller. We could call him General Weller,

now. He is a splendid fellow, but he has only one arm to wave with—the other is shorn off at the shoulder.

Katrina was standing on the stoop when she saw her husband. At first she waved her hand feebly in reply to his distant greeting, and smiled; then she leaned her pretty head upon old Gotlieb's shoulder and burst into tears. Poor, lonely-hearted Katrina! She had waited six long years to see her husband, and now the joy is too great to bear, without the relief of tears—joyous tears.

The procession moved on. Chieftain after chieftain passed, their careworn features wreathed with smiles.

Then the troops filed in after them, and the entire pageant swept past, to turn up some other street, and gratify the thousands whom Broadway could not contain. The crowds followed the procession, and, in an hour or so, the space in front of the Golden Shark was almost deserted.

Then Katrina Wilder retired into the parlor of the tavern, along with her little son, and had another good cry—her panacea for every thing. Presently old Mrs. Wilder entered the apartment. She had viewed the procession from an upper window, and had ascribed a portion of Joe's hand-wave as intended for herself—as very probably it was.

"Did you see him, Kitty? Did you see him?" she exclaimed, sitting down by Katrina's side, and clasping her in her arms in the exuberance of her emotion.

The happy wife could only press her mother's hand in reply.

"I saw him, too," cried the little lad. "I know'd it was daddy, if I never did see him before. Golly! he was a nice man!"

The old lady smiled and took him in her lap.

But now old Gotlieb's voice was heard in a greeting which there was no mistaking. A light foot was heard to spring into the tap-room—a clear voice to exclaim: "Where is she?" and then the same step bounded into the parlor and Katrina was in her husband's embrace.

"My darling! my wife!" was all he could say.

Then came the mother's turn. Then old Gotlieb entered, with his blunderbuss at shoulder-arms, and immediately commenced one of his "forward-marches" up and down the room, and in a manner demoralized by joy; while the little

lad, whose name was George Washington Wilder, danced round his father, tugging at the tail of his coat, and bawling at the top of excellent lungs: "Daddy, daddy, give us a kiss! Hooray! hooray! here's daddy!"

"My dear little fellow!" exclaimed the delighted colonel, catching the urchin with his single arm. "Why, Kitty, what a big, fine fellow he is. And to think of a father with a boy like that, and not to have seen him! Come, darling, let us improve our acquaintance. What's your name?"

"George Washington Wilder!" was the straight-forward reply. "Where's your other arm, daddy?"

"Moldering in the sod of the Cowpens, my boy," replied the colonel, laughing. "But there's a long story about that arm, which you shall some time hear."

"Yes, if George is a good boy," said his grandmother.

"He always is goot," exclaimed his grandfather. "I tells you, Sheneral, dat dat dere leetle poy is de gayest leetle poy you ever did saw. He's der plessing of der household, and vill be vell worthy to possess der goon of mine faders, ven ve bees all kerstauben."

There is little more to add. Our hero served through the entire war with credit and fame. Long after peace was declared he lived with his beloved wife in New York city, respected and honored by all, and upon terms of intimacy with General Washington—holding several offices of trust and dignity, under special appointment, when the General became the chief-magistrate of the land. The happy pair were blessed with other children, and the sun of their prosperity was cloudless to the close.

Old Gotlieb, also, lasted a long time. He gave up his tavern, and took up his residence in his daughter's house, at the close of the war. There he doubtless danced his grandchildren on his knee to his heart's content, telling them over and over again the history of the blunderbuss, and the account of that immortal hand-shake which he received from the Father of his Country.

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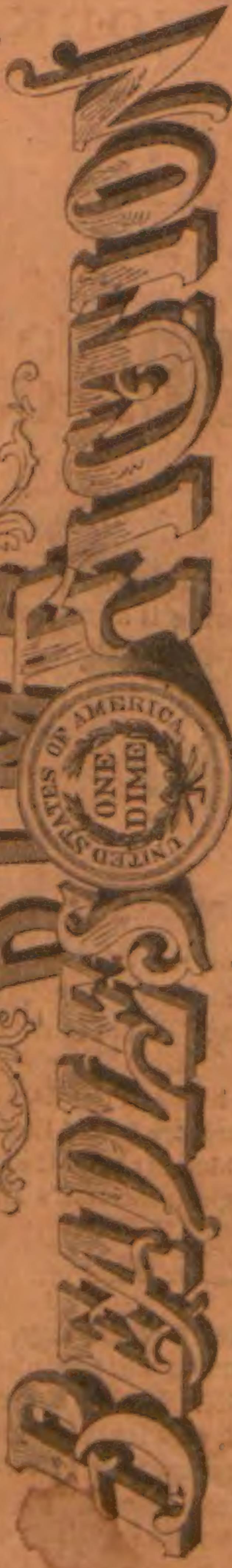
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